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Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) Program – Recent Amendments

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Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations (PPER) – Amendments to EEM Program

- *Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations (PPER)* amended July 28, 2008
- Published in Canada Gazette II August 6, 2008
- Main Changes to Improve Effectiveness of the Environmental Effects Monitoring (EEM) Program
- Based on Recommendations in the report: *Improving the Effectiveness and Efficiency of Pulp and Paper EEM: A Smart Regulation Opportunity* (December 2005)

Pulp and Paper Effluent Regulations (PPER) – Summary of Key Amendments

1. Suspend EEM at mills that have ceased production for an extended period of time
2. Streamlined sublethal toxicity testing
3. Change in frequency of monitoring each component on biological monitoring (fish, benthos, fish tissue)
4. Exemption from a benthic invertebrate community study when 1% effluent zone <100 m from outfall
5. Amend requirement to investigate magnitude and geographical extent of 'effect'
6. Add 'Investigation of Solutions' (IOS) to EEM
7. Administrative changes

Key PPER Amendments

- 1. Suspend EEM at mills that have ceased production for an extended period of time**
 - Increased frequency of mill closures
 - Limited scientific value to assess potential 'effects' when mill not operating
 - Mill not required to conduct EEM if it has not produced pulp and paper products for at least 8 consecutive months and has not resumed production
 - When mill resumes production, EEM study and interpretive report must be submitted within 3 years of the date of resuming production

PPER Amendments

2. Streamline sublethal toxicity testing

- Remove requirement to conduct sublethal toxicity testing on fish species
- Non-responsive to pulp and paper effluents
- Retain invertebrate and plant tests (twice/year)
– continue to show responses
- Smart Regulation report recommended complete removal of sublethal toxicity testing

PPER Amendments

3. Change in frequency of monitoring each component on biological monitoring

- 2004 amendment – reduced monitoring to 6 yr cycle ‘no effects’ in fish, benthic invertebrates and fish tissue
- ‘Effect’ in one component, required monitoring or evaluating all components every cycle (3 yrs)
- Proposed change allows reduced monitoring in component with ‘no effects’ e.g., ‘effect’ on benthos -- 3 yr cycle; ‘no effect’ on fish – 6 yr cycle

PPER Amendments

4. Exemption from a benthic invertebrate community study when 1% effluent zone <100 m from outfall

- Similar provision for fish where 1% effluent zone <250m from outfall
- Not practical due to rapid dilution
- Rapid currents and hazardous conditions
- Effects unexpected

PPER Amendments

- 5.** Amend requirement to investigate magnitude and geographical extent of ‘effect’
- Experience showed EEM requirements in PPER not as efficient in terms of biological requirements
 - Required one or more additional sampling areas within exposure area
 - Streamlined to move forward e.g., investigation of cause with more ease

PPER Amendments

6. Include 'Investigation of Solutions' (IOS)

- Key new component
- Proposed to require mill to investigate possible solutions once cause identified
- Addresses concerns expressed during 2004 amendment information sessions by industry, First Nations and environmental groups

7. Administrative changes

EEM Investigation of Solution (IOS)

- Flexibility to resolve mill-related effects
- Related references for nutrient enrichment effects
 - EEM guidance on “pronounced” eutrophication – April 2007
 - *Best Management Practices (BMP) Guide for Nutrient Management of Effluent by Forest Products Association of Canada (FPAC)* – April 2008
 - EEM developing guidance for IOS for nutrient enrichment studies
- Documents available from National EEM website:
<http://www.ec.gc.ca/esee-eem/default.asp?lang=En&n=66097F3E-1>
Or more simply see www.ec.gc.ca/eem under “What’s New”

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