

Lafarge – Archives Year 2012

June 12, 2012 - Update on the expansion project is:

We received the following update from Lafarge on the expansion plans for the Exshaw Plant:

- Lafarge is on track with all the emission reduction plans that they are required to do as part of their permit. This includes the modifications to Kiln 5 including the new bag house to replace the old Gravel Bed Filter, the SNCR (Selective Non-Catalyst Reduction for NOx removal) and the FGD (Flue Gas De-sulphurization for sulphur removal). Once Kiln 6 starts up, Kiln 4 must be shutdown.
- Lafarge is still talking about burning alternative fuels. The scope of this has grown to include more than just clean wood -- they are now thinking about burning wood, plastic and asphalt shingles. They are going through the steps in the “alternative fuel protocol” but have yet to present anything concrete to the public as this is still preliminary. What is a concern is that they are thinking that 20% of their fuel needs could be supplied from this alternative fuel. That’s a lot especially given that part of this fuel is plastic. One of the metrics in the Alternative Fuel Protocol is that they cannot burn a fuel that has a better use if it is re-cycled. We will need to review this once more information is available.
- The plant has been burning natural gas instead of coal since January, 2012. They see natural gas being used for some time to come (the price is so low). The problem with natural gas is that it produces more blue haze than coal because it produces more water vapour when burned.
- There is a perception that PM 2.5/10 has gone up, but Brad has data that shows that it has actually gone down. He will send us the report/presentation that demonstrates this. Remember that PM2.5/10 is primarily from combustion whereas large PM comes from dusty environments such as roads, the mine, etc. The dry weather in Mar/Apr contributed to many exceedances of PM.