

February 14, 1975

Mr. J. Norman
Pollutech Pollution Control Service Ltd.
1094 Speers Avenue
Oakville, Ontario

Re: Fisher Harbour

Dear Mr. Norman:

As stated in Gar Mahood's letter dated January 22, 1975, John Low is no longer with the Association and the Fisher Harbour file has been assigned to me.

John sent you his personal views regarding the environmental aspects of the project of particular concern to Save Rainbow Country Committee. Not having seen any plans or impact studies, we defer comments until such material is available. We would therefore appreciate receiving copies when your firm has them ready.

Sincerely,

CANADIAN ENVIRONMENTAL LAW ASSOCIATION

Linda P. Cardini

cc: Steve Marshall

Next passed on report's distribution

By MAC SWACKHAMMER

TORONTO -- The Ontario Environmental Hearing Board (OEHB) announced this week a public hearing on the environmental impact study done on the Fisher Harbour project will be held next month in Sudbury, however only three copies of this report will be available for the public scrutiny before the hearing.

The report was prepared for Alexander Centres Industries of Sudbury by Pollutech Pollution Advisory Services, Oakville, at the request of the provincial secretary for resource development Allan Grossman. The province is withholding a water-lot lease for the harbor until after an impact study is done. The report was completed and given to Mr. Grossman's office and the ministry of the environment early this month.

An order-in-council last week authorized the Environmental Hearing Board to hold a public meeting on the report, in Sudbury on March 11. An announcement

from the board reports a copy of the Pollutech study will be "on view" in the clerks' offices of Little Current and Espanola and in the ministry of the environment office, Sudbury, as well as the board office Toronto.

No other provision for distribution of the report has so far been made and none of the four parties involved, ACI, Poll-

uteck, the OEHB or the resource secretariat accept responsibility for the report's distribution. Mr. Grossman's executive assistant, Mrs. Evelyn Markel has agreed to make one copy of the report available to this newspaper, however wider distribution, as far as she knew, is the responsibility for the hearing board, she said Tuesday.

Mr. T.M. Murphy, secretary of the hearing board told The Expositor he is "beset with the logistics of the matter", confronted with a mail strike, and having a hard enough time getting the only three copies to the north now. Mr. Murphy said he considers it the responsibility of ACI and Pollutech to distribute the report.

Pollutech spokesman Warren Wilson explained Monday his company has made 27 copies of the report available to Mr. Grossman's office, and that it is "not up to us (Pollutech) to distribute these, but up to the gov-

(Continued on page 13)

THE MANITOULIN EXPOSITOR - PAGE 13

Harbor environment study . . .

(Continued from page 1
ernment".

The Environmental Protection Act, under which the board acts and the studies are undertaken, gives no guidelines for distribution of public information. A spokesman for the Canadian Environmental Law Association, a civil group, said the act gives the public right to information but does not establish any responsibility on the part of the hearing board to make information public.

When contacted by The Expositor, Mr. Murphy was having making arrangements for other hearings, holding meetings, and dealing with the mail strike, "dealing 16,000 things at once," he said. He expressed concern that the report might not be as public as some people might think and said, "although it is considered to be our responsibility

(to distribute the reports) we have taken it upon ourselves to put those three on the bus". This he said was his main concern.

As a precedent for the release of an impact report, Mr. Murphy mentioned the study on lead pollution in some Toronto smelters. This report he said, was printed at the Queen's Printer, Ottawa. He said available to the public "wouldn't do you any good" in Little Current. He said how the responsibility of the report's distribution was a matter of "getting the report ready to go out about making the report readily accessible."

The Expositor has contacted the members who in the past have been sent to the Fisher Harbour project. Everyone contacted expressed dissatisfaction with the availability of the report.

None felt a report "on view" in a clerk's office could be examined closely enough for proper study. It was felt those who might wish to file objections with the board will be at a disadvantage during the hearings because of this lack of information.

When Mr. Murphy was told this, he suggested these people contact ACI or Pollutech, and not his board office.

"Try to remember," he said, "We are all in a brand new situation with few guidelines."

When told ACI and Pollutech had sent The Expositor's reporter to the OEHB for a report, Mr. Murphy said he did not have enough information to comment.