



STATE OF MAINE
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
STATE HOUSE STATION 17 AUGUSTA, MAINE 04333

DEPARTMENT ORDER

IN THE MATTER OF

BOWATER/GREAT NORTHERN PAPER) SITE LOCATION OF DEVELOPMENT
Millinocket, Penobscot County)
PULP MILL CONSOLIDATION) MODIFICATION
#L-15115-20-G-M (APPROVAL)) FINDINGS OF FACT AND ORDER
#L-16637-20-M-M (APPROVAL))

Pursuant to the provisions of Title 38 M.R.S.A. Section 481 et seq., the Department of Environmental Protection has considered the application of BOWATER/GREAT NORTHERN PAPER, INC. with its supportive data, agency review comments, and other related materials on file and FINDS THE FOLLOWING FACTS:

1. PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

A. History of Project: In Department Order #L-15115-20-A-N, dated 6/6/88, the Department approved the post-1970 development of Great Northern Paper's (GNP) mill in Millinocket. This order also approved a mill modernization plan which has not been fully implemented. In Department Order #L-16637-20-A-N, dated 4/24/90, the Department approved the post-1970 development of the GNP mill in East Millinocket. There have been a number of mill improvements and permit up-dates since the original orders.

The original proposal for this modification application included a peroxide bleach system (including some very minor footprints for a peroxide tank and sulfite bleach tower) at the Millinocket mill. This was later withdrawn due to planning uncertainties.

B. Summary: The applicant proposes to discontinue the obsolete groundwood mill in Millinocket and to temporarily consolidate all mechanical pulping processes at the East Millinocket mill. This situation is expected to last until GNP has an opportunity to permit and build a new pulp mill at the Millinocket facility (also known as the "West Operation").

Modification of the East Millinocket mill, the "East Operation," does not involve any changes in building or pavement footprints. However, consolidation of mechanical pulping at the East Operation will result in changes in road and rail traffic patterns. These changes will accommodate new patterns in raw material supply and waste disposal.

Modification of the Millinocket mill will include increased use of the sulfite mill and construction of increased chip handling capacity (including a dumper, a larger pile-out area, and a screen). Also proposed, are some after-the-fact projects that were added to the mill under the 30,000 square foot exemption for expansions of a manufacturing facility. These projects include the construction of a two million gallon weak liquor storage tank (that replaced two approved one million gallon tanks that were not actually built), a diesel emergency backup

pump for the wastewater lift station, and a frequency converter to allow the transfer of electrical power between 40 Hz and 60 Hz systems. Details of the modification are found in the Project Description in the application and on individual plan sheets.

2. SOLID WASTE:

Consolidation of the mechanical pulping at the East Operation will change the pattern of solid waste streams from the two operations. Increased use of the groundwood mill and the recycled fiber plant at the East Operation will result in increased wood waste and wastewater treatment plant sludge. These wastes will be disposed of at the Dolby III landfill. Solid waste generation at the West Operation will be reduced by the elimination of the obsolete mill.

Construction and demolition debris will be recycled whenever possible. Excavated materials will be used as fill on the mill grounds. Materials which cannot be reused will be disposed of at the Dolby III landfill. The Bureau of Hazardous Materials and Solid Waste Control commented that GNP is in substantial compliance with its Dolby permits.

3. WASTEWATER DISPOSAL:

Wastewater disposal patterns will change due to the groundwood mill consolidation. The West Operation requirements are reduced and the East Operation requirements are increased. The net change is a small increase in wastewater. This discharge is within the parameters of existing GNP wastewater treatment plant licenses.

4. TRAFFIC:

The applicant has submitted traffic information which demonstrates that the proposed operations changes will result in changed traffic patterns but in little difference in total traffic volume. This traffic information was reviewed by the Maine Department of Transportation which determined that a full traffic study was not needed and that no unreasonable congestion or unsafe conditions are expected at either mill site or in either town.

5. STORMWATER AND EROSION CONTROL:

All of the proposed new impermeable areas are in the West Operation. These areas drain to existing stormwater drains or enter the process wastewater stream. Approximately 2.1 acre of graveled wood storage will be converted to pavement and wood handling structures. A stormwater management and an erosion control plan were submitted and were reviewed by Bureau of Land and Water Quality technical staff. The stormwater and erosion control plans were found to be adequate.

6. SURFACE AND GROUNDWATER QUALITY:

Only the new West Operation structures are affected by this modification. The replacement of the weak liquor storage lagoon with a storage tank has eliminated a groundwater contamination source. The addition of an

emergency backup lift pump on the wastewater system has eliminated occasional spills to surface water. The oil-containing parts of the frequency converter will be located in their own spill containment area.

7. OTHER FINDINGS: All other findings of fact, conclusions and conditions remain as approved in Department Orders #L-15115-20-A-N, #L-16637-20-A-N and all subsequent orders.

BASED on the above findings of fact, and subject to the Conditions listed below, the Department makes the following conclusions in relation to the proposed modification pursuant to 38 M.R.S.A. Section 481 et seq.:

- A. The applicant has provided adequate evidence of financial capacity and technical ability to develop the project in a manner consistent with state environmental standards.
- B. The applicant has made adequate provision for traffic movement of all types into, out of or within the development area and any traffic increase attributable to the proposed development will not result in unreasonable congestion or unsafe conditions on a road in the vicinity of the proposed development.
- C. The applicant has made adequate provision for fitting the development harmoniously into the existing natural environment and the development will not adversely affect existing uses, scenic character, air quality, water quality or other natural resources in the municipality or in neighboring municipalities.
- D. The proposed development will be built on soil types which are suitable to the nature of the undertaking and will not cause unreasonable erosion of soil or sediment nor inhibit the natural transfer of soil provided that erosion control measures are implemented and maintained as approved.
- E. The proposed development will not pose an unreasonable risk that a discharge to a significant groundwater aquifer will occur.
- F. The applicant has made adequate provision of utilities, including water supplies, sewerage facilities and solid waste disposal, and roadways required for the development and the development will not have an unreasonable adverse effect on the existing or proposed utilities, and roadways in the municipality or area served by those services.
- G. The activity will not unreasonably cause or increase the flooding of the alteration area or adjacent properties nor create an unreasonable flood hazard to any structure.

THEREFORE, the Department APPROVES the application of BOWATER/GREAT NORTHERN PAPER, INC. to consolidate pulp processes, increase chip handling capacity, and to update facility footprints, SUBJECT TO THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS and all applicable standards and regulations:

1. The Standard Conditions of Approval, a copy attached.

2. In addition to any specific erosion control measures described in this or previous orders, the applicant shall take all necessary actions to ensure that their activities or those of their agents do not result in significant erosion of soils or fugitive dust emissions off the site during the construction and operation of the project covered by this approval.

3. All other Findings of Fact, Conclusions, and Conditions remain as approved in Department Orders #L-15115-20-A-N, #L-16637-20-A-N, and subsequent orders, and are incorporated herein.

DONE AND DATED AT AUGUSTA, MAINE, THIS 5TH DAY OF April, 1994.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

BY: Debrah J. Richard
Debrah J. Richard, Acting Commissioner

PLEASE NOTE ATTACHED SHEET FOR GUIDANCE ON APPEAL PROCEDURES

Date of initial receipt of application 3/2/94
Date application accepted for processing 3/9/94

Date filed with Board of Environmental Protection

This Order prepared by Mark Whiting Bureau of Land and Water Quality
L15115GM

