

MEDIA BACKGROUNDER

INVESTIGATION INTO STYRENE EMISSIONS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Sylvan Lake, July 26, 2005: The Town of Sylvan Lake continues to ensure that this matter is being investigated fully by those Provincial departments with authority and that industry in Sylvan Lake continues to adhere to applicable environmental laws and local land use bylaws.

The Town of Sylvan Lake has done its utmost in assisting Mr. Dyke with his request to have the matter raised with Alberta Environment.

The Town of Sylvan Lake first became aware of Mr. Dyke's concerns through a letter received by Mayor Bryan Lambertson on March 9, 2004.

The matter was referred to the Protective Services Department of the Town of Sylvan Lake who reiterated Mr. Dyke's concerns to Alberta Environment. Alberta Environment responded that the investigation into the matter would be continued and any results deemed to be detrimental to Mr. Dyke's health, and that of his neighbors, would be sent to the Regional Health Authority.

On April 23, 2004, Mayor Bryan Lambertson wrote Mr. Dyke concerning the steps taken by the Town of Sylvan Lake and the Protective Services Department to raise the issue with Alberta Environment who has jurisdiction and authority over such matters.

Mr. Dyke then approached the Operational Services Committee in person on December 15, 2004 to further explain his concerns. He was informed at that time that Alberta Environment was continuing to investigate the matter. The committee recommended Mr. Dyke consult a health professional in regards to the emissions.

Fiber-Werx, in a proactive approach to alleviating Mr. Dyke's concerns, has taken several steps in order to reduce the impact of its operations on Mr. Dyke and his neighbors. (Please reference attached Fiber-Werx press release.) On April 21, 2005, Fiber-Werx commissioned an independent study of the situation. AMEC Earth & Environmental, contracted to perform the study, indicated that styrene emissions from the operations of the Fiber-Werx facility are well within the acceptable limits and are in compliance with Alberta Ambient Air Quality Objectives and therefore do not pose health concerns to the surrounding area. These results were immediately forwarded to Alberta Environment and Town of Sylvan Lake by Fiber-Werx.

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An investigator with Alberta Environment has informed the Town of Sylvan Lake and the Minister of Environment that “a site visit of the Fiber-Werx facility performed on May 20, 2003 found no evidence to support a violation of the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.”

Alberta Environment “requested Fiber-Werx to develop a Plume model based on worse-case scenarios (i.e. highest concentrations expected.) This report was received by Alberta Environment on July 11, 2005 and review of this study has not yet been completed.”

According to the investigator, “while the air sample taken by Mr. Dyke showed styrene levels at **0.061 ppm**, the Occupational Exposure Limit for styrene, over an eight hour period and based on a forty hour work week, is **50 ppm**. No short or long term effects are anticipated at levels below 50 ppm as per the “Workplace Health and Safety Bulletin” as provided by Human Resources and Employment and there this could not be considered a release causing adverse effects as defined in the *Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act*.”

Fiber-Werx continues to hold a valid business license in the Town of Sylvan Lake and functions in accordance with Town of Sylvan Lake Light Industrial Land Use zoning regulations.

The Town of Sylvan Lake remains committed to the protection of its residents and businesses from adverse conditions affecting health and welfare and will continue to work with both concerned parties on the matter.