

Terrace Bay mill designed to produce about 1,135 tons per day of bleached kraft

(The remainder of the following story will appear in three more segments, one segment per week for the rest of the month of September.)

It concerns the Remedial Action Plan Team's status report on Jackfish Bay on Lake Superior.

It focusses on areas of concern, and in this case, concern of pollution).

(The following information was provided courtesy of Michael Moore, president of the Aguasabon Chamber of Commerce).

Industrial Discharges

The Kimberly-Clark mill at

Terrace Bay is designed to produce approximately 1,135 tons per day of bleached kraft pulp.

Average discharges of mill effluent contain an approximate load of 35.0 tons of BOD and 8.0 tons of suspended solids per day.

In addition, loadings of considerable amount of organic contaminants are discharged as is typical of bleached kraft pulping operations.

This operation represents the sole discharge of point-source pollutants to Jackfish Bay.

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pliance with the Federal Pulp and Paper Regulation. Kimberly-Clark must meet the

BOD loading requirement of 30 kg/ADMT and by June 30, 1989, must reduce their suspended total solids load to 7.0 T/D.

Continued reductions in effluent toxicity will also be required.

Water Quality

The Ministry of the Environment and its predecessor agency, the Ontario Water Resources Commission, have monitored the water quality of Jackfish Bay since 1969.

During this period of operation of the mill, the settleable solids and other contaminants have been deposited throughout the 15-kilometre stretch of the Blackbird Creek system prior to its discharge to Lake Superior.

A report issued following the first study in 1969 offered two significant conclusions.

The first was that the observed physical, chemical and biological conditions indicated the presence of toxic and organic pollution throughout Moberly Bay and the second was that the Blackbird Creek system was incapable of assimilating or reducing waste components to the extent necessary for the adequate protection of Jackfish Bay waters.

Conditions which characterized the degraded water quality at that time included waters which were turbid, laden with suspended materials, malodorous and supporting high bacterial populations.

The stream bottom sediments, furthermore, were blanketed with wood wastes throughout the 15-kilometre reach of the system.

The company has made improvements to their operations and reduced the amount of pollutants being discharged, however, water quality investigations in 1981 and 1984 reveal that under normal operating conditions, the

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ability of the Blackbird Creek system to assimilate oxygen demanding waste continues to be taxed far beyond its natural limit.

Furthermore, no aquatic life has been detected in the creek or small lakes which form part of the Blackbird Creek system with the exception of micro-organisms and occasionally, the rattailled maggot.

An area of Moberly Bay and Jackfish Bay of approximately five square kilometres has been altered to an extent where normal clean water bottom-dwelling organisms are not able to survive and have been replaced by pollution-tolerant organisms as a result of direct toxic influence of the effluent or deposition of organic wastes.

A Ministry of the Environment investigation of trace contaminants in pulp and paper effluent was conducted in 1982.

The results indicated that the Kimberly-Clark effluent contained varying levels of toxic organic substances.

Of the many pollutants tested chlorinated phenolics and the resin and fatty acids have been identified as being of particular

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