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Ministry
of the
Environment

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION:
R.M. Gotts (844) 475-1205
J. Hornick (416) 965-7117

ENVIRONMENT MINISTER PARROTT SERVES NOTICE
OF \$13 MILLION CLEAN-UP BY REED

Ontario Environment Minister Dr. Harry C. Parrott announced today that a Notice of Intent to issue a Control Order has been delivered to Reed Ltd. concerning the emission of atmospheric pollutants and discharges of waste causing water pollution at the company's mill in Dryden.

The Notice provides for a pollution abatement program for air and water discharges to be undertaken by Reed Ltd. to be completed by December 31, 1982 at an estimated cost of \$13 million.

The Ministry's action follows six months extensive review of the Reed situation by the Ontario Legislature's Standing Committee on Resources Development. Environment Minister Parrott referred the question of a control program for Reed to the committee in February 1979.

Upon receipt of a Notice of Intent, a company has 15 days in which to present objections.

Dr. Parrott said that the Ministry intends to issue the Control Order to Reed as soon as the statutory 15-days has expired.

The Control Order establishes a series of deadlines for completion of the program. These deadlines will be monitored by Ministry staff and action will be taken in the event that terms of the order are not obeyed, Dr. Parrott emphasized.

Here are highlights of the program:

Air pollution will be controlled through compliance with the following installations and schedules:

- * Burning of non-condensable gases which give rise to odours. Installation is to be completed by September 15, 1980, and the facilities are to be in normal operation by December 31, 1980.
- * Installation of a black liquor oxidation system and instrumentation to ensure maximum concentrations of reduced sulphur compounds which are extremely odorous when emitted from the recovery boiler and direct-contact evaporator will comply with Ontario regulations. These facilities are to be constructed by September 30, 1982, and in normal operation by December 31, 1982.
- * To install facilities to burn odorous gases consisting of evaporator non-condensable gases and digester flow gases, and install a scrubber system for odorous emissions from the tall oil reactor. These facilities are to be installed and placed in normal operation by December 31, 1981.
- * Identify present degree of control of particulate emissions by December 31, 1979, and where necessary outline proposals for achieving compliance with Ontario regulations through improvements of efficiency of emission controls already installed or other equipment. This report is to be received by December 31, 1979. In addition, by December 30, 1980, Reed is to submit a report identifying the effectiveness of the above-noted controls and if necessary describe additional proposals for ensuring compliance with Ontario regulations, including any required additional emission control facilities.

The notice lists requirements for identifying water quality. Many of the controls for air described earlier will contribute to the improvement of the effluent discharged to the Wabigoon River by removing toxic, odorous, fish-tainting organic compounds from the waste waters.

These are specific steps that are spelled out:

- * Completion of construction of primary treatment facilities, already begun, to remove suspended unseparable solids from their water effluent. These solids now settle in the receiving waters, blanketing the bottom, giving rise to floating sludge mats and otherwise interfering with water quality. These facilities are to be completed by September 15, 1980, and placed in normal operation by December 31, 1980. A report evaluating their effectiveness is to be submitted by August 31, 1981.

- * To install and have in normal operation works to implement an in-plant effluent reduction and spill control program to reduce effluent flow and to ensure the collection and return to process spillages of processed water and waste water containing materials normally contained or recovered within the mill processes. This requirement covers many separate projects which will be completed over a period of two years ending December 31, 1982.
- * To prepare and submit an engineering feasibility report on secondary treatment and/or alternatives which would be effective in improving the effluent by removing organic materials to reduce the five-day biochemical oxygen demand by about 80 per cent. These organic materials give rise to oxygen deficiencies of the receiving waters, making them unsuitable for fish propagation.

In a general vein, the notice also requires the company to keep in repair and operate the facilities pursuant to this notice.

The notice also contains a requirement that the company file progress reports concerning achievements with regard to the requirements at the end of each three-month period commencing September 30, 1979.

Dr. Parrott said the control program had been determined after careful consideration of the presentations made by the company, the Town of Dryden, the mill labour unions and other concerned groups.

The 65-year-old Reed mill at Dryden employs 1,600 and is the principal source of employment for the community of about 25,000.

Reed reported the loss of \$77 million in 1977 but the company's report for the six months ended June 30, 1979 reflects earnings of \$11.8 million on sales of \$150 million.

The company said it has spent \$25 million on pollution abatement equipment between 1970 and 1978, including \$5.2 million on replacement of a chlor-alkali process to eliminate the emission of mercury into the Wabigoon River.