

Supreme Court Petition Regarding KMP SO2 Emissions

Earlier this week Local 2301 was mentioned in the press with several different news agencies commenting on our petition to the Supreme Court. Late last year our local applied to the Environmental Appeal Board to appeal the October 2014 permit granted to the Company increasing their allowable SO2 emissions. The Union took issue with the permitted increase and the absence of specific requirements for the Company to undertake measures to mitigate their emissions to protect human health.

The Union wasn't able to intervene at that time for reasons which we don't accept and this has led to a new petition being filed with the Supreme Court of Canada this week. We would like to clarify certain quotes and headlines you may have read. First of all, the Union supports the modernization of Kitimat Works. There is no question that the new technology being introduced will bring many positive things to the workplace and our community. This is not to say that there won't be issues we'll continue to have moving forward and these will be handled accordingly. We have no desire to "halt" the progress of the modernization and we will continue to represent our member's interests calling for the highest environmental standards possible as part of the modernization. Our local has a long and proud history fighting for our member's rights and pushing the employer to make improvements to the working conditions in the plant. The result of our efforts are obvious when you consider the compensation we've achieved for many of our members and their families and the changes we've affected in the workplace.

The KMP is an opportunity to have a world class smelter which can employ state of the art environmental equipment to minimize emissions for workers on the shop floor and our community. There are several positive improvements which the Company has reminded the public of and they would like us to leave it at that. The problem is that we know there is world class technology out there that could provide equally impressive results reducing the SO2 emissions. The Company chooses to resist adding this technology to the KMP and ask us to accept SO2 increases at a time when our environment has never been more important.

For further information please contact the Union Hall at 250-632-4611 and speak with one of the officers present.