

Via email: ncia@telusplanet.net

October 16, 2013

Dr. Laurie J. Danielson
Executive Director
Northeast Capital Industrial Association
#204, 9902 – 102 Street
Fort Saskatchewan, Alberta T8L 2C3

Dear Dr. Danielson:

Re: Northeast Capital Industrial Association Regional Noise Management Plan

Thank you for your email of October 10, 2013 where the NCIA requested formal clarification of the following sentence in the AUC letter of September 16, 2013.

"In brief, an applicant is expected to prepare a standard application assessing noise before and after a facility is constructed and operating although your regional noise baseline would be used rather than having to measure or otherwise establish the existing noise levels. The expectation is that the noise levels at nearby receptors would have no net increase as a result of the new facility because of the existing ambient sound levels. If there is any net increase, the applicant would need to address how the noise level would be planned to be restored to the initial level in the next short term 3-5 year period."

The NCIA indicated that while this approach may make sense in areas where there is already considerable development, it expressed a concern that development in areas on the fringe of the regional noise model area would not be allowed if the facility results in an increase over the background noise levels in the region. The NCIA concern was that such an approach in fringe areas would be very restrictive and could be interpreted to mean that no development is possible in those fringe areas. The NCIA indicated that it may be appropriate to utilize a traditional permitted sound level (PSL) approach in those areas as a starting point, and to reassess the approach as development occurs in the area. The regional noise model would be updated as development occurs.

The AUC understands the NCIA concern that in low noise fringe areas it may not be practical, and could potentially give rise to an unintended consequence, to have no net noise increase where the traditional PSL approach would not be violated. The AUC wishes to clarify that is not the intention. As the NCIA suggested, in those circumstances utilizing the traditional PSL approach may be effective. Updates to the NCIA noise model would be expected to capture the impact of significant incremental development as it occurs.

If you have any further questions about the Commission's decision, please give Brian Shand or me a call.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Douglas A. Larder".

Douglas A. Larder, QC
General Counsel