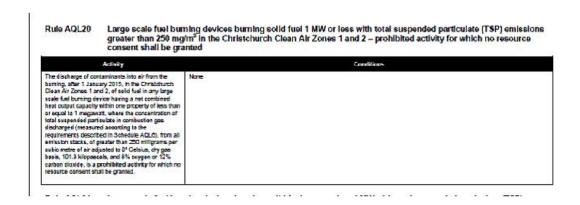
Response to Air Plan Hearing Panel Questions from Straterra Inc

As I understand the question she asked you last week it was the following:

The current air plan makes the discharge of total suspended particulate of greater than 250 mg/m3 a prohibited activity in the Christchurch Clean Air Zones 1 and 2.



So why is it any worse under the rules under the proposed plan?

Answer

And on this very narrow point, she has a point. As the PCARP proposes under Rule 7.15 that within Clean Air Zones (though note that this is now wider than just the Christchurch Clean Air Zones 1 and 2 as under the current plan) the discharge of TSP at a concentration exceeding 250 mg/m³ is a non-complying activity. Note though that for those operators outside the Christchurch Clean Air Zones 1 and 2 who would exceed 250 mg/m³ they go from a being a discretionary activity (Rule AQL27) under the current plan to non-complying under PCARP.

The real issue though is that under the Rule 7.18 any discharge of contaminants from a large scale fuel burning device (as defined by PCARP) within a Clean Air Zone which "will likely result in guideline values, set out in the Ambient Air Quality Guidelines 2002 Update being exceeded is a prohibited activity." As PCARP does not distinguish between localised effects of a discharge and effects on the ambient air quality of the airshed it is open to interpretation that in a polluted airshed (which Clean Air Zones must be by definition) any further discharge however small will likely result in the exceedance of the guideline values and therefore will be prohibited. This is regardless of whether the 250 mg/m³ limit for TSP for a particular discharge is being exceeded or not.

Also I would note that under the existing Plan:

Rule AQL24 External combustion of solid fuel or light fuel oil 1 MW or less outside of the Christchurch Clean Air Zones 1 and 2 – permitted activity

Activity	Conditions
Except where prohibited by Rule AGL 12, the discharge of contaminants into air from the burning, outside the Christibund Clean Air Zones 1 and 2, of coal, wood or light fuel oil in any external controlled the guinness having a net cusput capacity within any management area of greater than 40 kilowatts and less than or equal to 1 meganiott, is a permitted activity.	 Where the discharge of sulphur dioxide is less than 0.5 kg/hr, the discharge into air shall occur via a chimney stack at the relevant minimum height specified in Schedule ACILS, and shall be at least 3 metres above the ridge line of the roof of any building, bind or other substantial structure within a radius, from the stack, 650 metres. Where the discharge of sulphur dioxide exceeds 0.5 kg/hr, the discharge into air shall occur via a chimney stack, at the relevant minimum height specified in Schedule ACILS, and the religionize of the roof any building, land or other substantial structure within a radius, from the stack, of 60 metres shall not be higher than 0.4 times the stack height. The discharge shall be directed undertady into air and shall not be impeded by any obstruction above the stack which decreases the vertical effect velocity, below that which recold occur in the absence of seach obstruction. The sulphur content of the feel to be burned shall not lessed 37% by weight. The chimney stack shall be thermally insulated to
For the purpose of this rule a "management area" may contain one or more large scale fuel burning devices, and means:	prevent acid smut formation. 6. The ash content of coal to be burned shall not exceed 7% by weight. Coal burned shall contain less than 30% by weight of fine
the property if the property is less than or equal to 1 heatans; or	particles having a clameter of less than 3 millments. 7. The dispharge and associated fuel handling shall not eause odour or particulate matter which causes affensive or objectionable effects beyond the boundary of the property where the dispharme originales.
 fi the property is greater than 1 hectare, within an area on that property defined by a 100 metre radius control on any individual large scale fuel burning device. 	 The concentration of total suspended particulate in combustion gas disoharged from all emission stacks, when measured according to the requirements described in Schradule AQLB, shall not exceed 500 milligrams per cubic metre of air adjusted to 0° Cebius, dry gas basis, 101 3 biopassatis and 8% copyage in 12% earbon disolate.
	 The opacity of the discharge at the chimney exit shall not be darker than Ringelmann Shade No. 1, as described in New Zealand - standard 5201:1973, except
	 in the case of a cold start for a period not exceeding 30 minutes in operation; and
	(b) for a period not exceeding a total of four minutes in each suspending hour of operation.
	 The moisture content of wood to be burned shall not expeed 25% dry weight.
	11. The fuel burning equipment shall be maintained at least once every year by a person competent in the maintenance of that equipment. This maintenance shall include advise more all adjustment if necessary of the fuel to air ratio and testing of the ratio and testing participation gases (carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and oxygen) discharged to ensure compliance with condition. A copy of each maintenance report shall be held and provided to Environment Carbotrury before 31 March auch year.
	12. All fuel burning equipment shall be operated in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Coal burning equipment shall also be appeared in accordance with the Environmental Code of Practice for the Operation of Coal Fired Bioliar Institutions less than 5 magazutts (Gross) Capacity, Coal Resourch Ltd, Decorder 1009, where applicable.
	 A record shall be kept of the type and quantity of fuel used each month in the fuel burning equipment. This record shall be held and provided to Environment Canterbury before 31 March each year.

This has not been carried over into PCARP so for those operators who have relied on this rule, they will need to apply for a resource consent when PCARP becomes operative. The question then becomes as to whether or not the rules in PCARP will allow them to get one outside Clean Air Zones for the same reasons set out above. (And note that Rule 7.17 makes discharges that will likely cause an exceedance of the guideline values a non-complying activity status. A hard hurdle to jump.)