

Barwon Freedom from Fluoridation Inc. (BAFF)
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ALOCA'S Fluoride-polluting fuel trial at Anglesea NOW CANCELLED !!

See Alcoa's news release today:

http://www.alcoa.com/australia/en/news/releases/20100805_ANG_alt_fuel.asp

You will notice that Alcoa's press release today carefully avoids mentioning fluoride, but all of the local newspaper stories, particularly those in the Geelong Advertiser over the last 3 weeks, focussed on the fact that Alcoa admitted that the new fuel, named HiCAL 40, would increase fluoride air emissions above the levels already there from the coal they burn.

NOTE: for those not familiar with this site, the Anglesea Alcoa station is a coal mine and coal burning electricity generation station that supplies electricity to the Alcoa smelter at Point Henry, Geelong, about 30km away.

Geelong Advertiser journalist Jasmin Paton had been doggedly and accurately reporting the controversy about this issue in the paper, through the month of July. To see a series of her stories go to the FAN website [www.fluoridealert.org], click on Latest News and scroll down through August and July.

Alcoa ran a community liaison meeting in Anglesea meeting last Monday night (2 Aug). Well over a hundred people packed the hall. They gave the Alcoa representatives furious, outraged feedback to their spin on how safe and carefully conducted this trial would be. Down to almost the last person in the hall they were quizzed on the details, and told to "stop the trial or we will shut you down".

The Alcoa spokespersons could give no reasonable answers to the questions on why it was acceptable to increase fluoride pollution in their town, and so close to a new primary school about to open.

They described what the fuel HiCAL 40 is. It is "treated" spent pot lining from the smelter at Point Henry. Alcoa is committed to recycling waste you see. Part of their environmental and social responsibility agenda !!! When they finally admitted what is in the HiCAL 40 it turned out to be 40% carbon, 10% fluoride, and an amount of cyanide. Presumably there is paperwork somewhere showing what the rest of it is. BUT, they told the meeting, most of the fluoride does not go out the chimney stacks, just some of it, the rest remains as ash. It is then dumped into the mine, as a kind of landfill. When questioned on where the water that mixes with that landfill goes to, they gave a series of evasive answers that ended admitting it goes into the Anglesea river.

Previously 'spent pot lining' has been dumped into landfill. But apparently that is no longer allowed as it is too toxic, and too much toxic stuff leaches out. So Alcoa is desperately seeking new "uses" for this high-fluoride 'spent pot lining'. They found a reprocessing company to make it into so-called HiCAL 40. This company has already been selling it to the Blue Circle cement works at Waurn Ponds where it is burned, and presumably emits a lot of fluoride into the air, which would blow over Waurn Ponds and other Geelong suburbs. But when Alcoa decided to start using it at their Anglesea plant it seems they took on a sleeping giant. Well, not a giant – Anglesea is just a sleepy little seaside resort and residential town. But it seems the people like Anglesea being a natural and pretty clean place. Lots of environmentally conscious people. And the little town roared. Within about a week of them getting organised and going to meetings and protesting at the plant, and getting some signage made up, Alcoa saw what they were taking on, and what was going to happen to the 'Good corporate citizen' image they so carefully try to nurture. Boom, boom, boom - no doubt there were urgent phone calls and teleconferences with their National management, maybe even with the top brass in the USA, and the order went out "cut your losses and cancel this one".

Of course the question will be: for how long is it really cancelled? Will they try a different strategy to get this 'spent pot lining' burned at the Anglesea plant? But for now it is a great victory. And so fast! Wow! Congratulations to the champions of Anglesea! With a bit of help from a great G Advertiser journalist, and Prof Mark Diesendorf who provided expert opinion to that journalist, and a few Geelong environmental people who kicked in to support the Anglesea people.

Watch for the follow up news stories in tomorrow's Geelong Advertiser (6/8) and other media. Maybe even on tomorrow's ABC television Stateline (Victoria) if we are lucky.

Thanks everyone (now to get the stinking fluoride out of the water supply across the region)

David McRae, Barwon Freedom from Fluoridation

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