Guayubira Press release - 12th August 2009

Having a second look at the report on Botnia's environmental performance.

On the afternoon of 10th August the data corresponding to the third semester of operations of Botnia were publicly disclosed. The documents submitted concluded that "The environmental performance of Botnia's plant continues complying with the applicable standards, norms, authorisations and BAT criteria (best available techniques)". Nevertheless, immediately after the presentation the news item that "Botnia does not contaminate" started to propagate.

However, the analysis of the information distributed shows that the Finnish company discharges into the river and to the air important daily quantities of diverse pollutant substances.

According to the presentation by the Control and Environmental Performance Division of DINAMA, during the period under analysis the gaseous emissions, the solid waste and the liquid effluents discharged by the plant were the following (*):

Gaseous Emissions:

SO_2 (sulphur dioxide): 30 tons
TRS (sulphur gases): 6 tons
S (sulphur): 35 tons
NOx (nitrogen oxides): 995 tons
Particulate Matter: 117 tons

Solid wastes:

Green liquor slag and lime sludge: 18,720 tons
Raw water treatment sludge: 1,755 tons
Bark and wood residue: 51,480 tons
Primary sludge from effluent treatment: 14,040 tons

Liquid effluents:

Phosphorous: 5 tons
Nitrogen: 30 tons
AOX (halogenous organic compounds): 18 tons
BOD (biological oxygen demand): 117 tons
COD (chemical oxygen demand): 2,925 tons
TSS (total suspended solids): 117 tons

The report presented provides information about other substances that were discharged into the river, amongst which are the following: Ammonium, Nitrate, Chlorate, Phenolic substances, Chlorophenols, Resinic Acids, Sterols, Arsenic, Mercury, Cadmium, Nickel, Lead, Zinc, Sodium, Iron, Sulphide, Cyanide, and detergents, values which were reported in milligrams per litre of effluent. If these quantities were expressed in kilograms (**) and as an example, we can note that during the period under analysis the discharges into the river were 2,925 kgs. of arsenic, 74 kgs. of cyanide, 2,925 kgs. of chromium, 74 kgs. of mercury and 878 kgs. of lead.

The data given in the presentation indicate that Botnia's plant discharges 23 tons per day of waste into the water and the air, produces 102 tons daily that go to the industrial landfill and 325 tons daily of waste that go to the plantations, primary sludge compounds from the effluent treatment plant and wood remnants.

In conclusion, the analysis of the information disclosed shows that the Finnish company discharges into the river and the air an important daily quantity of diverse substances, some of them widely known by its harmful effects on the health of living beings. We cannot then assert that the cellulose plant "does not contaminate"; it can only be said that this contamination is within the legally established parameters.

Notes:

* These data were given in kilograms per ton of cellulose. Considering that, according to the company's figures, 585,000 tons of cellulose were produced, we arrive at the figures shown here.

The values shown for gaseous emissions, effluents discharged into the river and solid waste stem from the monitoring carried out daily by BOTNIA and the samples taken in 5 inspections carried out by DINAMA (during the period from 11th November through 31st May).

** These data were given in grams and micrograms per litre of effluent. Considering a daily discharge of 73,000 cubic metres per day effected by the plant, we arrive at the figures shown here.