

Lorneville environment impact study released

By MILTON THOMAS

The committee responsible for the Lorneville Environmental Impact Study hopes the results of their labours "will contribute to the development of a sound and workable approach to combining industrial development with maintenance of the quality of life."

Released last week, the study was conducted to assess the potential effects on the environment of a proposed industrial development scheme for the Lorneville-Saint John sector of the province. The steering committee for the study was composed of J. M. Henderson of the Saint John River Basin Board; B.B. Barnes, N.B. Department of Fisheries and Environment; J. N. Ballinger, Ministry of Transport; and S.K. Krishnaswame, Environment Canada.

The environment study directly resulted from the decision in late 1971 to establish at Lorneville a deepwater port offshore as well as an industrial complex. Specifically, the industries presently in the planning stages and which were taken into account for the study are an oil transfer depot, an asphalt refinery and N. B. Power's thermal generating plant.

Fears for the environment of Saint John and the Bay of Fundy center on the potentiality of oil spills from the activity of supertankers around the deep-water port and in the bay. The land-based industries were assessed in terms of solid, liquid and gaseous wastes.

The report emphatically stipulates that it is only a preliminary

study. Estimates of the costs of environmental damage resulting from these industries are the minimum which could occur. Suggestions for safeguards and governmental responsibilities provide only a framework. Many details have yet to be worked out.

Should a major oil spill occur, it is estimated by the study-group to cause up to \$11,800,000 damage to the Fundy fishing industry and as much as \$7,900,000 damage to the tourist industry alone. This does not include clean-up costs. Permanent ecological damage was not estimated in monetary terms.

The thermal plant is forecast to emit 94,500 tons of sulphur dioxide into the atmosphere per annum, doubling the present total output in the Saint John area. On top of this, the plant may eventually double its output and other industries emitting noxious gases may be established. And as the report says "the assimilative capacity of the atmosphere in the impact area is finite."

Furthermore, the thermal plant will be dumping 350,000,000 gallons of sea water into the bay daily. Used in the generating function of the plant, the water will be 5 degrees - 7 degrees F. warmer than the Fundy waters and will have as yet unknown effects on the ecology of the area.

However, the report suggests that the water from the plant might be turned to a beneficial use. It proposes that the warmer water could be used in an adjacent aquaculture station for the raising of trout and salmon fry. Apparently this possibility is already receiving consideration.

The study comes forth with specific recommendations for these industries as well as overall environmental safeguards covering future industries.

"Every industry to be established at Lorneville," said the report "must be required to use the best practicable technology in reducing air emissions of all pollutants." N. B. Power is already committed to doing this.

As well, no toxic wastes should be dumped on land. And no industries established there should alter the existing environment, i.e. forests, water courses, etc., any more than is necessary.

a continuous basis and examination of the wide-spread effects of fallout from airborne pollutants.

One important recommendation to this effect was for the establishment of "a monitoring program of conditions in the Bay of Fundy off Lorneville before and after development."

Finally, "because significant economic losses could occur unless the environmental effects are carefully controlled," the study advocates that "an environmental management system" be set up involving all three levels of government. Co-operation and organization are the key words

overall. He said there has been no response as of yet from any government officials. He believes this will come once the public has had a chance to air its views.

Henderson also believes prepared reports and briefs from conservation councils and environmental groups will be forthcoming. These will add to the work which has already been done.

When asked to assess the degree of objectivity put into the report from the various agencies involved, Henderson voiced his belief that it was as objective as possible. "When you are involved in something like this, you alter moods," he said. "You shouldn't let emotionalism carry you away. Personally, I think they were factual."

However, Henderson did state that "the study does have its shortcomings." He said that if the detailed task force reports were examined, it is evident "that there is a lot that just isn't known. The federal government should definitely look into it."

The study itself is in two volumes. The first volume is a brief resume of the major points and recommendations. The second volume comprises the 20 detailed task force reports summarized in Volume One. These reports were produced by various governmental agencies such as Environment Canada, the Ministry of Transport and N. B. Dept. of Fisheries and Environment.

A public hearing will be held in about six weeks in Saint John, to hear public opinion on the report, its recommendations and their implementation.

Fears for the environment of Saint John and the Bay of Fundy center on the potentiality of oil spills from the activity of supertankers around the deep-water port and in the bay.

Careful regulation of shipping lanes and employment of the most modern navigational aids would reduce the possibility of ship collisions. Contingency plans for oil spills and their clean-up under various circumstances were also recommended.

In reiterating its first-phase nature, the study cites areas which need further in-depth analysis. Among these are systems for air and water pollution monitoring on

involved in this.

"If all levels of government" maintains the report "ensure that their activities are co-ordinated and constitute a practical management system, the environmental costs to society of the Lorneville developments could be reduced to almost any level that the governments agree to establish."

Steering Committee Chairman John M. Henderson in an interview said he was pleased with the study

Africa Night presents African culture

By NANCY CARR

A rare glimpse into a unique way of life was provided to those who attended Africa Night 1973 in the SUB ballroom last Saturday evening.

Members of the audience were greeted at the door by African students in native dress. Inside, they were treated to a varied and interesting program which featured different African dances and folk songs, also performed in authentic costumes.

The program, which stressed different aspects of African culture, also included a film, a reading of African poetry, and an enactment of a traditional 'Isuwun', or engagement ceremony.

Humour was not absent from the program either. Amusing anecdotes filled the gap between tribal dances such as the 'Ngoma' and 'Asiko Ere'. Mr. Sallah El Din Hassanien delighted the audience with a story entitled 'Coming to Canada' in which he related the



African students and student wives taking part in a traditional ceremony for Africa Nite.



Enthusiastic African students put on an exciting performance during Africa Nite last Saturday night.

difficulties experienced by a foreign student in interpreting Canadian slang expressions.

Following the program, the audience was invited to view a display of African artifacts, art objects, and travel brochures. At the same time, they could indulge in some African cuisine, choosing from a variety of native dishes offered by the students.

Africa Night was put together by the approximately 50 students

from Africa who attend UNB and was free to the general public. Although regional cultural differences do exist, the purpose of the program was to give the audience a basic concept of African culture.

For both the students and the audience, Africa Night 1973 proved to be an enjoyable excursion into a way of life unimpeded by the progress of the 20th century.



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