

**New York State Department of Environmental Conservation**

Albany, N. Y. 12201    Region 4 - Environmental Quality Office  
Room 207  
50 Wolf Road

Henry L. Diamond,  
Commissioner

January 23, 1973

Mr. John Purdy, President  
McKownville Improvement Association  
McKownville  
Albany, New York

Dear Mr. Purdy:

Commissioner Diamond has asked me to respond to your December 27th letter as this office is directly responsible for the abatement program being carried out at the SUNY Heating Plant on Fuller Road.

As you pointed out in your letter, the heating plant has switched from oil to gas. I would like to outline what this Department has done, to date, to correct this air pollution problem.

During the months of August and September this office conducted a vegetation study and a sulfur dioxide study. The results of these studies clearly showed that the 24-hour ambient air standard was being violated in the immediate area of the heating plant.

Knowing that the ambient air standard for sulfur dioxide had been violated, the Regional Air Resources staff met with the University Construction Fund early in October. The Fund has plans to correct this problem by constructing one high single stack which would serve the four boilers in the plant. Also, soot collectors would be installed on each boiler. The Fund proposes to complete these modifications by September of 1974. In the meantime, however, we indicated an interim solution would be required to eliminate their high sulfur concentrations until these modifications to the plant were made. The heating plant has a gas limitation with Niagara Mohawk which would allow them to burn on gas alone for eight months out of the year. With this limitation, SUNY would have to augment their fuel requirements with fuel oil during four of the winter months. We have directed SUNY to burn at their maximum gas limitation and to make application to have their gas limitation relaxed so they could run on gas twelve months of the year. As of November 1, 1972 SUNY began to burn up to their maximum gas limitation. Also, SUNY has requested that their gas limitation be relaxed for these four winter months.

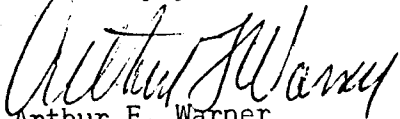
The Regional Air Resources staff has been working with the State University Construction Fund to insure that their proposed long-range air pollution modifications will prevent the ambient air standards from being violated.

Surveillance of the plant to date has indicated that this policy of burning at their

maximum gas limitation and augmenting with fuel oil has significantly reduced the air pollution problem at the plant. This office will continue to survey the situation.

I hope that I have answered your question satisfactorily. I feel that the abatement program worked out with the University is a realistic one, which, when fully completed in 1974, should eliminate the air pollution problem at this plant. If you would like additional information, please contact me at 457-7110.

Sincerely yours,



Arthur F. Warner  
Regional Engineer for  
Environmental Quality

DRØ'I/ac

cc: Mr. Allen  
Mr. O'Toole