July 7, 2016

Dear [Redacted] - s.40(1)

Re: Your request for access to information under Part II of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act [Our File #: SNL-033-2016]

On June 8, 2016, Service NL received your request for access to the following records:

"A copy of the letter and proposal Minister Joyce prepared and submitted to Kruger Inc as part of a commitment he made to Corner Brook Pulp and Paper mill workers union concerning their concerns regarding their unfunded pension plan."

I am pleased to inform you that a decision has been made by Service NL to provide access to the requested information. In accordance with your request for a copy of the records, please find the appropriate copy is enclosed.

Please be advised that you may ask the Information and Privacy Commissioner to review the processing of your access request, as set out in section 42 of the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (the Act). A request to the Commissioner must be made in writing within 15 business days of the date of this letter or within a longer period that may be allowed by the Commissioner.

The address and contact information of the Information and Privacy Commissioner is as follows:

Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner
2 Canada Drive
P. O. Box 13004, Stn. A
St. John's, NL. A1B 3V8

Telephone: (709) 729-6309
Toll-Free: 1-877-729-6309
Facsimile: (709) 729-6500

You may also appeal directly to the Supreme Court Trial Division within 15 business days after you receive the decision of the public body, pursuant to section 52 of the Act.
Please be advised that responsive records will be published following a 72 hour period after the response is sent electronically to you or five business days in the case where records are mailed to you. It is the goal to have the responsive records posted to the Office of Public Engagement's website within one business day following the applicable period of time. Please note that requests for personal information will not be posted online.

If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me by telephone at 709-729-7437 or by email at ellenhaskell@gov.nl.ca.

Sincerely,

ELLEN HASKELL
ATIPP Coordinator
April 13, 2016

Daniel Archambault
Executive Vice President and COO
Industrial Products Division, Kruger Inc.
3285 Bedford Road
Montreal, QC, H3S 1G5

Dear Mr. Archambault:

Re: Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited Pension Plans

I write concerning the recent proposal submitted by Kruger to address the funding issues for the pension plans of Corner Brook Pulp and Paper Limited (CBPPL).

Government is still assessing your proposal and no decision has been made respecting Government’s willingness to engage in discussions in respect of it. Given the complexity of the proposal, its implications for various Government entities and the associated legal issues, this assessment will take some time.

In the interim however, while the company recommenced quarterly contributions to the pension plans in the fall of 2015, the current level of contributions are significantly lower than the minimum funding requirements of the Pension Benefits Act, 1997 (the “Act”) and the associated Solvency Funding Relief Regulations. This continues to be of significant concern to the Superintendent of Pensions as well as your pension plans member representatives.

It is obvious that further delays in addressing the funding issues will continue to worsen the funded position of the pension plans. Therefore I am requiring that the company immediately commit to increasing the quarterly payments to the pension plans to the amount required based on existing legislation (approximately $3.91M per quarter). This increased funding should begin for the first quarter of 2016, due to be remitted to the pension plans no later than April 30, 2016.

While this requirement does not address the overdue contributions to the pension plans, it avoids further increases in the amount of overdue contributions to the plans. It would also demonstrate Kruger’s commitment to maintain your legal obligations to plan members. As previously communicated by Service NL officials, if all stakeholders can come to an agreement on pension funding relief and if Government introduces such legislation then, as permitted under the Act, any excess contributions by the company can be used to offset future funding requirements.
Please confirm with the department, by April 20, 2016, that you agree to increase the contributions starting at the end of April. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact Julian McCarthy, Assistant Deputy Minister, at (709) 729-2571.

Sincerely,

EDDIE JOYCE, MHA
District of Humber – Bay of Islands
Minister of Service NL

cc Julian McCarthy, ADM