

January 3, 2003

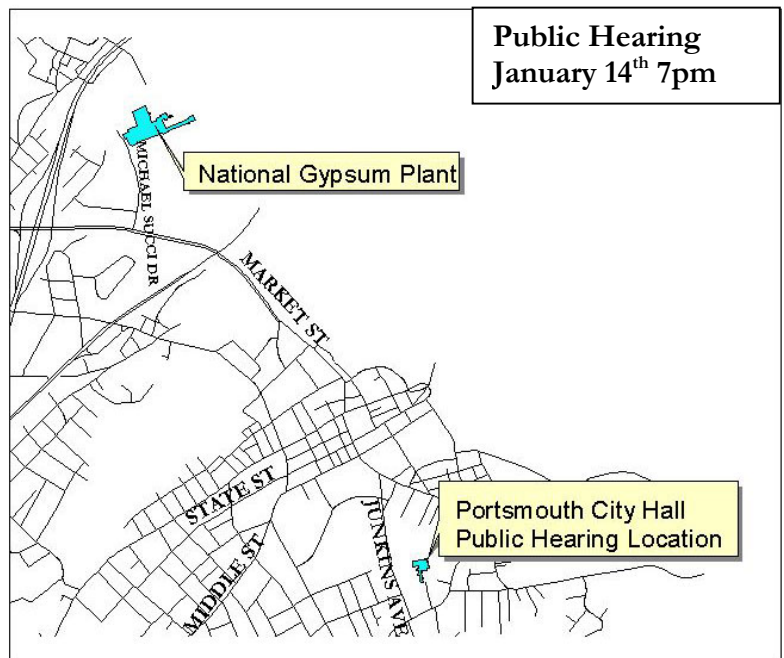
To Abutters and Interested Parties:

This letter is to inform all abutters and interested parties of an upcoming Public Hearing in reference to the request by National Gypsum to New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services. National Gypsum has applied for an Air Quality Permit Amendment from New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES). The proposal calls for National Gypsum to combine three existing exhaust stacks from the wallboard drying kiln (stacks 13, 14,16) into a single new stack (stack 19).

The purpose of the project is because National Gypsum will be taking steam which was previously vented from the plant and re-using this steam in the wallboard drying process. National Gypsum hopes to reduce emissions and reduce operation costs through reuse of steam. In association with this project National Gypsum is proposing to go to a lower sulfur content (0.3% sulfur by weight) fuel oil or natural gas in all four zones of its wallboard drying kiln to further reduce emissions.

The City has requested a public hearing on this Permit amendment. NHDES has scheduled the public hearing for **January 14, 2003 in the Conference Room A at 7:00pm**. Input from interested parties is requested to insure that all terms and conditions of any permit will be met and that the applicant will minimize air pollutant emissions.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact Peter Britz, Environmental Planner at 431-2006 ext. 215.



Sincerely,

John P. Bohenko
City Manager