

ITEM 15

MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 68

COUNCIL MEETING Oct. 23/72

15. Re: Emission of Foreign Substance  
1000 Block, Holdom Avenue  
Shell Canada Limited

An article in the Vancouver Sun described a fallout of a sandlike substance over a part of North Burnaby on October 13, 1972. Alderman Dailly while commenting on the article at the Council Meeting on October 16, 1972, pointed out that the emissions apparently resulted from operations at the Shellburn Refinery. The Municipal Manager responded by reading the following comments which were contained in a letter dated October 16, 1972, from Mr. J.C. Fisher, Refinery Manager, to the Medical Health Officer:

"It has been drawn to our attention that a sand like material was found last Saturday morning by residents in the Holdom area. On examination, we have confirmed that this material is a catalyst used in our operations. Subsequently we have confirmed that some catalyst was discharged during start up of our catalytic cracking unit around 7 p.m. Friday evening. The catalyst used in this process is an inert sand like material.

We deeply regret this occurrence and apologize for the nuisance and inconvenience caused to our neighbours."

Mr. Fisher at the request of Council has submitted the attached letter which more fully describes the nature and cause of the emissions.

When we hear more from Shell Canada Limited, we will advise Council accordingly.

This is for the information of Council.

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COUNCIL MEETING Oct. 23/72

Shell Canada Limited

October 20, 1972.



SHELLBURN REFINERY  
201 KENSINGTON AVE.  
BURNABY 2, B.C.  
TELEPHONE: 298-2484

Dr. W.F. Sunderland,  
Medical Health Officer,  
The Corporation of the District of Burnaby,  
4949 Canada Way,  
Burnaby 1, B.C.

Dear Sir,

Please refer to my letter of October 16th regarding a catalyst emission on October 13th.

During a shutdown of our catalytic cracking unit extensive changes and additions were made to equipment and control systems. In addition operating procedures were reviewed and revised to minimize pollution and the possibility of creating a nuisance for our neighbours during start up and normal operation.

The start up of the unit on October 13th proceeded smoothly and all systems functioned properly. Operating records indicate that between 7 and 8 p.m. two pressure rises were experienced on the regenerator. In both cases the regenerator pressure returned to its normal control point almost instantaneously. Operations immediately prior to and following this incident were normal. We cannot state with any degree of accuracy the extent of catalyst losses due to the extremely short period over which the incident occurred. We guard against such incidents as the material in question is expensive.

To date we have been unable to determine the cause of these pressure disturbances which appear to be related to the catalyst emission. We are continuing our investigation in an attempt to pinpoint and eliminate the cause of this incident.

Yours very truly,

J.C. Fisher  
Refinery Manager

cc: Mr. G.H. Armon  
Chief Public Health Inspector