

1. Re: Shell Canada Limited Refinery Upset May 23, 1972

At the Council meeting held on May 29, 1972, Alderman Constable asked for a report regarding the above. The Mayor also referred to a complaint that he had received in this connection.

Following is a copy of a letter dated May 25, 1972, from Mr. J.C. Fisher, Refinery Manager, addressed to Dr. Sunderland, which outlines the incident that occurred.

This is for the information of Council.

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Shell Canada Limited

May 25, 1972.



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

Dr. W.F. Sunderland,
Medical Health Officer,
Health Department,
The Corporation of the District of Burnaby,
Burnaby 2, B.C.

Dear Sir,

Further to the May 24, 1972 telephone conversation between Mr. Armson and Mr. Peters, following is an explanation of an unfortunate nuisance situation caused by our refinery on May 23, 1972.

At approximately 3.15 p.m. May 23, 1972 our Fluid Catalytic Cracking Unit (F.C.C.U.) was being started up following minor repairs. During the start-up a pressure imbalance in the unit resulted in the atmospheric discharge of oil soaked catalyst. The situation was corrected in less than 2 minutes and the unit returned to normal operation shortly thereafter.

We would stress that this start-up procedure is carried out by highly experienced operators on a regular basis without difficulty. Unfortunately, human misjudgement in this particular instance resulted in considerable annoyance to our neighbours.

During the period in question our wind recorder showed that wind was blowing at 5-8 m.p.h. from east to west. Under these circumstances residents to the west of the refinery could have experienced an odour for a short period as the result of the Shellburn upset. Co-incidentally a very sour odour was reported by persons residing to the east of the refinery. In view of the wind direction this odour could not have originated at Shellburn.

We regret having caused such an annoyance and ensure you that our procedures are being thoroughly reviewed in an attempt to eliminate a recurrence of this unfortunate incident.

If you require further information regarding this matter please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J.C. Fisher".

J.C. Fisher
Refinery Manager