

ITEM	4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	35
COUNCIL MEETING	1979 12 17

RE: AIR POLLUTION

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

As Council is aware, all inquiries and complaints about air pollution are referred to the Greater Vancouver Regional District Air Pollution Control Office for follow-up and reply.

The Municipal Manager in 1979 September 25 wrote to the G.V.R.D. to obtain comments on the following two aspects of air pollution control:

- (a) What has been done by the G.V.R.D. over the past 5 years in terms of making its capability more responsive to air pollution problems, e.g., improved monitoring effectiveness, training of staff, etc.?
- (b) What has industry done during the past five years to remedy those causes of air pollution for which it is responsible e.g., installation of equipment, etc.?

The Municipal Manager's letter indicated that the two questions were merely intended to give some idea as to the type of information that is being requested, and that the person replying should feel free to respond in as much detail as is needed for a full understanding of the measures that have been implemented by the G.V.R.D. and industry during the last five year period. Attached is the reply that was recently received from Mr. J. Barrie Mills, head of the G.V.R.D. Pollution Control Division, with regard to this matter.

In conclusion, the information that has been received from the G.V.R.D. was requested by staff in connection with a desire to keep informed on this subject. It is not an exhaustive review, but does provide a good historical perspective on what has transpired in the field of air pollution control during the past five years.

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MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 85  
COUNCIL MEETING 1979 12 17

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Greater Vancouver Regional District

2294 WEST TENTH AVENUE VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA V6K 2H9 TELEPHONE 731-1155

Please refer to our file number: 10.05

Corporation of the District  
of Burnaby,  
Municipal Hall,  
4949 Canada Way,  
Burnaby, B.C.  
V5G 1M2.

RECEIVED  
1979 DEC 03  
MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S  
OFFICE

November 29, 1979

Attention: Mr. Melvin J. Shelley,  
Municipal Manager.

Dear Sir:

Re: Five Year Air Pollution Control Report

Further to my letter to you of October 19, 1979 regarding the above, the following information is provided.

The past five years have seen a dramatic growth and maturing in the air pollution control function of the Regional District. You are, of course, aware of much of this progress, having personally attended the Municipal Information Series that the District sponsored in mid-1979. I will review again and expand on this progress, however, for the benefit of the many staff and council members of Burnaby who were unable to attend our seminar.

The District response to citizen complaints has been an area of on-going development with our staff. A 24-hour complaint reporting centre was provided by the District from the inception of our pollution control program. Complaints received during the off-hours were promptly handled on the next working day, a procedure which worked well, at that time, for the less than a dozen annual off-hour complainants. In 1976, however, we further developed this service and provided an inspector on-call continuously during the off-hours. At the same time we added new cross references in the telephone directory to our telephone number and received the support of the municipalities, in this area, through the addition of a District air pollution reference in their own listings. The acquisition of additional paging equipment for our inspection staff has further improved our response to complainants, at all hours.

We also acted to improve the overall technical development of our inspection staff. To ensure an operational continuity, each of our inspectors is assigned a geographic area of normal activity. Team inspection and some area rotation is carried out at times, however, to better familiarize each of our inspectors with the total industrial development in the District, as well as the areas of concern that are sometimes unique to a specific municipality. Local and regional courses and seminars are regularly attended by our staff and, in combination with video taped and in-house lectures, provide a broad and cost-effective means of on-going employee development.

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Corporation of the District  
of Burnaby.

November 29, 1979

Attention: Mr. M.J.Shelley.

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The area of public participation has grown through the years. Our staff have lectured at all levels of the educational system, including public schools, technical institutes, universities and professional schools. We have participated in municipal committee meetings, as well as public information and educational meetings. Information meetings have also been held with the Regional Board members and you are aware of the Municipal Information Series that was held this year. This latter series was most helpful to many of our member municipalities as their mayors and many of their aldermen and senior staff were in attendance.

Our source and ambient monitoring program has developed dramatically over the past few years. At a source level, our stack sampling team have led the way in the province in number and variety of source tests carried out. The number of tests conducted by our staff is comparable to the combined total for the other seven provincial sampling teams. Our frequent sampling has improved the overall industry attitude regarding the necessity for on-going equipment maintenance programs. To up-date their testing skills, our sampling staff have attended several related courses.

Our ambient air monitoring program has expanded and matured in recent years. In the past five years the number of continuous monitoring stations in the District has more than tripled. The number of continuous monitors around the Burrard Inlet, alone, now exceeds the total for the rest of the province. The recent expansion of our network to include the telemetry of monitoring data to a central computer will improve our real time access to air quality information.

Our quality assurance program has improved through expanded maintenance and calibration procedures. Staff and equipment have been added to service and calibrate our monitors at regular intervals and ensure that any necessary repairs are carried out without delay. Again, on-going educational programs serve to improve the technical competency of our staff. Meetings are held with other monitoring agencies at provincial, national and international levels to share in the wide range of expertise that is available in the monitoring field. Our monitoring network also benefits from the auditing and cross-calibration of our monitors which some of these other agencies undertake.

The Regional District source control program has flourished in the past five years. Under the Pollution Control Act, close to 2,000 industrial sources are now regulated under our permit system, with over one hundred additional sources currently under review. While industry acted to control many of their sources before the District began to issue permits, several hundred pollution control installations and modifications have been implemented as a result of our permit system.

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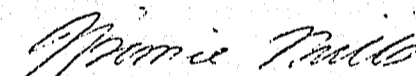
Costs for individual installations cannot be provided, however, it is estimated that over fifty million capital dollars have been spent on air pollution controls in the Regional District over the past five years, with additional annual operating costs estimated at over five million dollars.

In addition to the installation of pollution control measures, a significant industry expenditure has also been made in the areas of source and ambient monitoring. Independent source monitoring has been required of industry through the permit system and they have also contributed a major portion of the operational funds for the District ambient air monitoring network. An additional \$500,000 has been spent by industry in recent years, in this area.

While our control program is most commonly associated with the Pollution Control Act, many actions have also been taken under the Regional District Air Pollution Control By-Law No. 92. This By-Law regulates residential and commercial heating and incineration systems. Several hundred incinerators and boilers have been closed or repaired in the last five years to meet the requirements of this By-Law. Our staff continue to make regular inspections of these sources to ensure that adequate maintenance and operational procedures are carried out.

In summary, while the above information is only a partial report of the District and industry actions to control air pollution, it does provide a reasonable perspective of events over the past five years. I apologise for the delay in providing you with this information and trust that the above adequately responds to your concern.

Yours truly,



J. Barrie Mills, P.Eng.,  
Pollution Control.

JBM/rh