

ITEM	4
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	75
COUNCIL MEETING	1979 11 05

RE: ODOURS IN NORTH BURNABY  
 (ITEM 14, REPORT NO. 66, 1979 OCTOBER 01)  
 (ITEM 6, REPORT NO. 69, 1979 OCTOBER 15)

Following is background information on the following report from the Chief Public Health Inspector regarding the presence of air pollution in North Burnaby during August and September:

1. An initial enquiry was made by Council on August 13.
2. Council made two additional enquiries on September 17.
3. A letter from Mr. Len Sweet, Vice-President of the North Slope Ratepayers' Association, appeared on the agenda for October 01 meeting of Council.
4. Council received an interim report from staff on October 01 (Item 14, Report No. 66), a copy of which was sent to Mr. Sweet.
5. Council received a status report from staff on October 15 (Item 6, Report No. 69).

The last paragraphs in the report from the Chief Public Health Inspector and attached letter from Mr. J. Barrie Mills are related to an enquiry by Council which was made on 1979 September 17. This was in regard to the apparent availability of equipment which traps and then channels fumes into a compartment of tanker trucks on occasions when these trucks are replenishing storage tanks at service stations with fuel. It was understood by Council that staff will obtain and refer information on this equipment to the Pollution Committee for review.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to Mr. Len Sweet, Vice-President, North Slope Ratepayers' Association, 3911 Edinburgh Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5C 1R4

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 79 10 26  
 FROM: CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
 RE: ODOURS IN NORTH BURNABY

THAT this report be received for the information of Council.

REPORT

Further to our progress report relating to the above-noted subject and dated 1979 October 10, we are attaching the information requested of and provided by the Greater Vancouver Regional District, Pollution Control.

We would advise that the last paragraph of the G.V.R.D. letter pertains to a question raised during the enquiry period of the 1979 September 17 Council meeting. We are writing to South Coast Air Quality Management District as suggested and will be presenting the information obtained to the Municipal Pollution Committee for their consideration.

*G.H. Armson*  
 G.H. Armson, C.P.H.I. (C)  
 CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

GHA:gl

Attachment.

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Greater Vancouver Regional District

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

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Please refer to our file number: 10.05

The Corporation of the District  
of Burnaby,  
Health Department,  
6161 Gilpin Street,  
Burnaby, B.C. V5G 4A3.

October 19, 1979

Attention: Mr. G. H. Armson, C.P.H.I. (C),  
Chief Public Health Inspector.

Dear Sir:

Re: Odours in North Burnaby.

Further to your letters of September 21, 1979 and September 27, 1979 to the Director, the following information is provided.

We have reviewed the reports of odours to the District during the period in question. As noted in your letter, odour was reported throughout the District at that time, particularly during the late evening and early morning hours. These reports originated from White Rock to North Vancouver and Coquitlam to the University of British Columbia Endowment Lands.

Our staff carried out extensive investigations of possible odour sources throughout the District, both during normal working hours, as well as during the off-hour periods coincident with reports of odours. No specific operation or collective operations could be found to be responsible for the District-wide occurrence of odour. It was noted, moreover, that the citizen perception of the odours varied widely within a given area, as well as between areas. It was not uncommon for the same odour to be described in many different ways by different individuals.

We, therefore, concur with your opinion that unusual weather conditions, coupled with odour emissions common to all urban areas, was responsible for this odour. You may wish to note that the federal Atmospheric Environment Service also share this view. They report that the weather conditions during the principle period of concern were uniformly conducive to a meteorological build-up of urban emissions.

The District has also been requested to comment on the availability of equipment for on site testing of odours. The multiplicity of odour causing compounds in an urban environment has been discussed in the past as well as the difficulties in isolating and identifying these compounds. Many hundreds of compounds are responsible for urban odours and their typical concentrations are below the limits of practical measurement. Human odour perception is felt to be the most effective means of odour investigation.

With regard to your request regarding information on the control of service station emissions in Los Angeles, it is suggested that you contact the South Coast Air Quality Management District at 9420 Felston Avenue, El Monte, California 91731 for further information on this subject.

Yours truly,

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

JBM/rh