

ITEM	12
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	13
COUNCIL MEETING	1980 02 18

RE: DISCHARGE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS INTO THE FRASER RIVER  
 BELKIN PAPERBOARD, A DIVISION OF BELKIN PACKAGING LTD.  
 8255 WIGGINS STREET, BURNABY, B.C.  
 (ITEM 10, REPORT NO. 3, 1980 JANUARY 14)

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Following is a further report from the Chief Public Health Inspector on an investigation involving the discharge of an effluent into the Fraser River by the Belkin Paperboard Company.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the report of the Chief Public Health Inspector be received for information purposes.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 80 02 13

FROM: CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

RE: DISCHARGE OF POLYCHLORINATED BIPHENYLS TO FRASER RIVER, BELKIN PAPERBOARD, A DIVISION OF BELKIN PACKAGING LTD., 8255 WIGGINS STREET, BURNABY, B.C.

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RECOMMENDATION

THAT this progress report be received for the information of Council.

REPORT

Further to our report of 1980 January 09, we are forwarding information as received from W.G. Hamilton, P. Eng., Regional Manager, Pollution Control Branch, Lower Mainland Region and relating to the above-noted subject.

You will note that item #2 states that all requirements pertaining to Permit PE 17 are to be completed by 1980 June 30. The Health Department will keep in contact with the Ministry of Environment to ascertain that the requirements relating to effluent discharge have been completed.

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As suggested by Mr. Hamilton on page 3 of his report, we have written to B.A. Heskin, P. Eng., Regional Director, Environment Canada, Environmental Protection Service, Pacific Region, requesting information as to the status of their activities to date on Belkin Paperboard with respect to the discharge of P.C.B.'s to the Fraser River and the analytical results of P.C.B.'s in the effluent discharge and the Fraser River sediment.

We understand that the Environmental Protection Service is commencing a four week monitoring survey on 1980 February 25, which will embrace the following.

1. Further monitoring of P.C.B.'s as discharged by Belkin Paperboard.
2. Fish collection to establish residual P.C.B.'s in resident fish in the vicinity of the Belkin Paperboard discharge.

We have requested information gained from this survey and will be submitting a further report to Council when we receive the survey results.

It is our understanding that while there are no existing Federal standards regulating the permissible content of P.C.B.'s in effluent discharges, the Federal Government have the subject under consideration. We are asking Mr. Heskin to verify this information.



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

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Attachment.

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Province of  
British Columbia

Ministry of  
Environment

Pollution Control Branch  
Lower Mainland Region  
15326 103A Avenue  
Surrey, B.C.  
V3R 7A2  
Phone: (604) 584-8822

YOUR FILE .....

OUR FILE 0262100-PE-17

February 11, 1980

The Corporation of the District of Burnaby,  
6161 Gilpin Street,  
Burnaby, British Columbia. V5G 4A3.

Attention: G. H. Armson, C.P.H.I.  
Environmental Health

Dear Sirs:

re Pollution Control Permit PE-17  
Belkin Packaging Ltd.

We acknowledge your letter of January 11, 1980, requesting advice on the discharge of effluent covered by the referenced Permit.

1. Belkin Packaging Ltd. are beneficial holders of Permit PE-17 originally issued on October 29, 1957 and amended July 5, 1969; January 22, 1971; March 11, 1974; August 22, 1974; April 20, 1978, and February 8, 1980.
2. The Permit authorizes discharge of a maximum of 11,400 m<sup>3</sup>/day of effluent with characteristics as prescribed in the Permit. The works authorized are in-plant and out-plant treatment facilities, related appurtenances as required to meet effluent characteristics, and submerged outfall. The works to be completed and in operation by June 30, 1980.
3. On January 3, 1980, Belkin Packaging telephoned to advise that the rake mechanism in the clarifier had failed. As a result, the clarifier had to be emptied to afford repairs and effluent would be discharged by-passing this treatment works.
4. The Regional Office determined that the discharge by-passing the works was contrary to the intent of the Permit and advised Belkin Packaging on January 4th, that action would be taken to close the plant at 11:59 p.m., January 5th or earlier in order to alleviate discharge of untreated wastewater. This decision was appealed to the Director who apparently refused the appeal thereby upholding the Regional position.

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The Corporation of the District of Burnaby

February 11, 1980

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5. The company worked diligently to correct the problem and advised the Regional Manager about 8:00 p.m., January 5th that repairs had been carried out to a stage whereby the clarifier could again be placed in service. This was confirmed by visit to the site at 9:30 p.m., at which time effluent was being directed into the clarifier.
6. Since the illegal discharge procedure had been corrected, the Regional Manager determined he should not implement the procedure to close or lock the works and Mr. Morgan was advised the plant can continue to operate.
7. The rake system was not operating since mechanical parts were to be repaired or replaced. Alternate means of sludge collection were to be used in the interim.
8. Since the works were operating on an interim mode, samples were obtained and analysed to determine the effectiveness of this treatment.
9. Results of tests showed the interim works were not as effective in removing solids as were the normal approved works. This information was discussed with the Permittee.
10. The undersigned determined that the discharge under the interim operation was not acceptable and it was mutually agreed with Belkin Packaging Ltd., that the paper machines producing the waste load would be shut down about 6:00 a.m., Friday, January 11, 1980. The machines were not to be started again until the clarifier was repaired so as to resume normal operation.
11. The clarifier was repaired and returned to normal operation about 4:30 a.m., January 12, 1980.
12. The initial test on effluent from the repaired works shows the effluent quality to be better than before the clarifier works broke down. Since the results of a single test are not conclusive, further sampling will be undertaken to assure a program of upgrading the effluent is effective.

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The information associated with tests conducted by the Environmental Protection Service can best be identified by that agency.

The results of tests for PCB's conducted by the Pollution Control Branch are:

- (a) As reported in the Fraser River Estuary Study Water Quality Report Table 12

PCB's = .0024 mg/L (mean of 4 samples 1979)

- (b) Composite sample of effluent collected January 8, 1980

PCB's = Arochlor	1242	0.003 mg/L
Arochlor	1254	N.D.
Arochlor	1260	0.001 mg/L

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Total	0.004 mg/L
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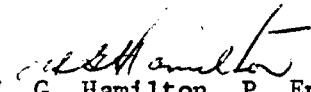
- (c) Composite sample of effluent collected January 14, 1980:

PCB's = Arochlor	1242	0.004
Arochlor	1254 L	0.0001
Arochlor	1260 L	0.0001

At present flow rates the levels for January 8 and January 14, 1980, represent an approximate discharge load of PCB's = 0.24 pounds per day.

The Pollution Control Branch are requiring further upgrading of the effluent in accordance with the Permit.

Yours truly,

  
W. G. Hamilton, P. Eng.  
Regional Manager.

WGH/fa

