ITEM	6
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	29
COUNCIL MEETING	1984 04 16

RE: 1984 APRIL 08 PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FIRE AT CHEVRON CANADA LIMITED BURNABY REFINERY

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Inspector be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER

1984 April 11

FROM: CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

Our File: 3-12-02

RE: 1984 APRIL 08 PROCESSING EQUIPMENT FIRE AT CHEVRON CANADA LIMITED, BURNABY REFINERY

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUMMARY:

The following report consists of information on the recent fire at the Chevron Refinery. During the incident, there were no emissions of toxic gases. Refinery staff believe it was erosion within a processing line which led to the fire. The equipment to which the fire was isolated is scheduled for replacement by mid-November 1984. The new equipment will allow for more stringent control of the entire catalytic cracking process and far less likelihood for erosion within the line.

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REPORT

Further to Municipal Council's 1984 April Ø9 request for information on the 1984 April Ø8 processing equipment fire at Chevron Canada Limited, Burnaby Refinery, we would advise as follows.

On Sunday, 1984 April Ø8, 14:12 h, the Burnaby Fire Department responded to a call for fire control assistance by Chevron Canada Limited, Burnaby Refinery. The fire was isolated to a catalyst regeneration line associated with the fluid catalytic cracker unit (Cat cracker). The fire is believed to be the result of the development of a small hole caused by erosion within the catalyst transfer line. This resulted in a backup of catalyst in the flow system and, due to the high internal temperature (9ØØ^{O} F), the catalyst material ignited.

With the assistance of the Burnaby Fire Department staff, the fire was quickly controlled. The processing equipment was cooled by the addition of water and the fire extinguished, upon completion of the "cool down" at 17:ØØ h.

During the fire, there was no escape of toxic gases. Water vapour from the "cool down" of the catalytic cracker unit equipment and the inert catalyst would be the components of any visible air emission.

The equipment damaged in the fire is expected to be repaired and operational by 1984 April 12, with full production commencing the next day. The catalytic cracking unit which gave rise to the incident is scheduled for a complete renovation and upgrading as per the recent Preliminary Plan Approval granted by Council. As was discussed in the report for that application, the renovations will allow for more stringent control over the entire process and far less likelihood for erosion within the catalyst transfer lines.

Chevron officials have advised this Division that the repaired system will run until mid-October, at which time a shutdown for completion of the renovation will occur. The renovated system is scheduled to commence production in mid-November, 1984.

George V. Harvie

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

GVH:la

cc: Director Fire Services
Director Administrative & Community Services
Medical Health Officer