

Re: LETTER FROM THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF NEW WESTMINSTER,  
CITY HALL 511 ROYAL AVENUE, NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C., V3L 1H9  
OUTDOOR BURNING

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
SUBJECT: OUTDOOR BURNING

85 06 26

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be sent to the Corporation of the City of New Westminister, 511 Royal Avenue, New Westminister, B.C., V3L 1H9.

REPORT:

Appearing on tonight's Council Agenda is a letter from the City Clerk of the City of New Westminister conveying to Burnaby Council a concern of the New Westminister City Council about "...burning being permitted at the Stride Avenue Dump...".

We had sent to New Westminister a copy of our report on the cancellation of outdoor burning by Burnaby residents (Item 6, Manager's Report No. 39, Council Meeting 85 06 03), copy attached. New Westminister advises us that they are concerned only about burning at Stride but in this connection we believe it is important to point out that complaints in the past from New Westminister have coincided with periods of allowable Burnaby resident outdoor burning during which time no Municipal burning whatsoever took place at Stride. We are of the firm opinion that, at least in the past, general resident outdoor burning has been a factor resulting in bringing about complaints from New Westminister.

The most recent complaint from New Westminister emanates from their Council meeting of 1985 June 17. We believe it to be most pertinent to point out that, unfortunately, an open burning took place at Stride Avenue during the early morning hours of 1985 June 15 (Saturday); the fire was set by persons unknown and did result in some smoke drifting partially into the westerly part of New Westminister. Burnaby staff members had nothing whatsoever to do with this open burning and wish to express their regrets that this blatant act of arson transpired.

Our report of 1985 06 03 mentioned the trench burner at Stride Avenue and that testing and pre-operational shakedown measures are going on but that we were most optimistic about the trench burner being a viable means of disposing of at least some portion of the total volume of garden refuse pending the Big Bend incinerator becoming fully operational. We are still not finished with pre-operational testing but we continue to believe that the trench burner has an important role to play in disposal of garden refuse. As we proceed with our work on the trench burner, we will keep New Westminister's staff informed so that in turn the New Westminister Council will have the opportunity of being more directly informed by its own staff members concerning our garden refuse operations at Stride.

EEO/ch  
Att.

*EEO*  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

ITEM	6
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	39
COUNCIL MEETING	85/06/03

ITEM	19
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	46
COUNCIL MEETING	1985 07 02

RE: OUTDOOR BURNING

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER  
 FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING  
 SUBJECT: OUTDOOR BURNING

85 05 24

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council approve the cancellation of outdoor burning by Burnaby residents and that the Municipal Solicitor be requested to bring forward the bylaw appropriately amended.
2. THAT a copy of this report be sent to all persons who have recently made their views known on this matter including the City of New Westminster.

REPORT:

On 1984 04 24 we reported to Council stating that we were studying the feasibility of using methane gas, generated from wells sunk at the old Stride Avenue dump, to assist the burning process in a designed trench burning system.

Wells have been sunk and production of methane is better than expected. The trench burner together with ancilliary equipment has been built and several test burns have been carried out. While not one hundred percent satisfied at this time, we are sure that with minor modification the system will be satisfactory.

As we have stated before, the Burnaby Fire Department is opposed to any outdoor burning by Burnaby residents but are not opposed to burning of garden clippings at Stride Avenue by Corporation forces provided that burning is carried out in a properly controlled manner.

The Medical Health Officer and the Chief Public Health Inspector are understandably concerned about outdoor burning because of complaints they receive from residents with respiratory problems. The Medical Health Officer also pointed out that the timing of the Spring and Fall burning days is approximately coincident with the worst periods for natural irritants which cause problems for persons who suffer from allergies and respiratory problems. The Health Department Officials stated that they would be prepared to agree with the Fire Department's position on outdoor burning but would also be prepared to accept a properly controlled burning arrangement at Stride by Municipal forces if up-to-date trench burning equipment were to be used and if burning is carried out when atmospheric conditions are the most favourable.

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Although the Engineering Department's views are very heavily weighted by economic considerations, we do nevertheless sympathize with those who suffer and we are prepared to support the position taken by the Fire and Health Departments provided that we continue to burn at the Stride Avenue location using the most up-to-date methods.

We feel that the cancellation of outdoor burning for Burnaby residents will not cause any great inconvenience for the following reasons:

1. From observation, the percentage of residents doing outdoor burning is small.
2. Any garden clippings may be taken to Stride Avenue.
3. Garden clippings and or scrap lumber may be bundled in lengths less than three feet and these will be picked up on regular refuse days.

With respect to #3 above, there would, of course, be an increase in cost through increased refuse disposal costs but with changing times our thinking may have to change when we equate waste management costs with acceptable environmental standards.

It is likely that by the time the incinerator in the Big Bend area is operational, Stride Avenue may be phased out and all refuse including garden clippings will go to the incinerator.

In the meantime we will continue to accept garden clippings at Stride, although to offset rising costs we will, in all likelihood, need to very soon institute a dumping fee. We should state that we do not burn grass cuttings and in fact compost them with leaves and other natural debris with the resulting product being used for Municipal purposes.

  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

WMR/lmy

cc: ( ) Fire Chief  
( ) Medical Health Officer

