

ITEM "SUPPL." 10
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 29
COUNCIL MEETING 85/04/22

RE: GVS&DD PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES
REFUSE INCINERATION PLANT

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Planning & Building Inspection be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1985 APRIL 17
FROM: DIRECTOR PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION Our File: 15.601.1
SUBJECT: GVS&DD PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES
REFUSE INCINERATION PLANT

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RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District be requested to include provision within their incineration project for the establishment of an air emission monitoring program within Burnaby's south slope residential area for evaluating incineration plant emissions.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to:

Mr. D. L. Mackay, Commissioner
Greater Vancouver Sewerage & Drainage District
4330 Kingsway
Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G8

SUMMARY

The following report provides Council with staff observations of the 1985 April 11 Open House held at McPherson Park Junior Secondary School. As a result of staff's attendance at the open house, discussions have since been held with the GVS &DD outlining citizen's concerns and the District has provided certain undertakings as outlined in this report which respond to these concerns.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND

Prior to addressing the results of the Open House and staff's subsequent discussions with GVS &DD officials, a brief summary of previous Council reports and actions is provided as follows.

On 1984 September 10, Council received a status report on the incineration proposal (Manager's Report No. 55, Item 10). As a result of Council's consideration of this report and staff's attendance at the 1984 September 11 Special Joint Meeting which was held to hear presentations from the consortia bidding on the project, the GVS&DD was requested to respond to certain aspects of the incineration proposal.

This information was forwarded to Council, on 1984 December 10 (Manager's Report No. 79, Item 8), at which time the following resolutions were adopted:

- "1. THAT Council endorse the concept of establishing a solid waste incinerator in Burnaby's Big Bend Industrial Area as outlined in this report.
2. THAT a further report be submitted to Council for its specific approval of this project following the selection of the size and type of the proposed facility and the provision of additional information as outlined in this report.
3. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to:

Mr. D.L. Mackay, Commissioner
Greater Vancouver Sewerage &
Drainage District
2294 West 10th Avenue
VANCOUVER, B.C. V6K 2H9"

Council also discussed the provision of scrubbers for the proposed incinerator at the 1985 January Council meeting and adopted the following motion:

- "1. THAT the Municipal Council of the Corporation of the District of Burnaby support the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District's Water and Waste Management Committee's recommendation that scrubbers be incorporated in the construction of the refuse incinerator system."

2.0 NOTIFICATION OF PUBLIC OPEN HOUSES

The District held three public open houses in Burnaby to present information on its plans for constructing a refuse incineration plant in the Big Bend industrial area. The open houses were held on three consecutive evenings from 19:00 h to 21:00 h as follows:

April 09 Gilmore Avenue Community School
April 10 Armstrong Elementary School
April 11 McPherson Park Junior Secondary School

A further open house is to be held at the New Westminster Public Library on 1985 April 18. A notice was placed in the Burnaby Now, the Royal City Record and the New Westminster Now newspapers.

In addition, residents were advised through these publications that staff was available to discuss the proposal at the GVRD offices between 08:00 and 16:00 hours.

The response to the Gilmore and Armstrong open houses was relatively light with approximately 20 to 25 persons in attendance. The overall reaction to the proposal was positive. Approximately 90 to 100 persons attended the McPherson Park open house and the reaction to the proposal was mixed as discussed further in this report.

In discussing the method of notification to the residents, staff was advised that the District specifically chose to place a large display ad in the Burnaby Now newspaper (as well as others) as this publication is delivered to each residence within Burnaby and it was felt that this action would obtain the widest possible response.

In observing the discussions between the residents attending the McPherson Park Junior Secondary School open house and District staff, the Planning & Building Inspection Department representative noted a fair degree of citizen objection to the form of notification. Several residents felt that a letter should have been mailed to each individual residence. Others felt that they were not being given sufficient opportunity to make their views known through the open house format. In response to these comments, District staff stated that the purpose of the open houses was to provide information to the residents from which they can better assess the project and that final decisions have not yet been made and there is a continuing opportunity to make their views known to the elected representatives.

3.0 INFORMATION PROVIDED AT OPEN HOUSES

Participants were invited to register at the entrance and several hand-outs were available on waste management and recycling. A brochure was also provided on the proposed refuse incineration plant briefly outlining the history of the project. The proposed location of the plant was identified and a schematic section of the plant was shown in this brochure together with technical data on the plant.

Numerous display panels were available describing various components of the proposal as were large scale photographs of the proposed site and surrounding area. A display of the published material on waste management alternatives and other background information on the incineration project which is available to the public was on hand for viewing. Participants were made aware of the fact that copies of this material could be obtained through the GVS&DD offices.

Two audio-video presentations were also available for public viewing. One was entitled "What Should We Do With Our Garbage", and outlined alternatives for waste management. The second video showed a refuse incineration plant which is currently in operation in Japan.

4.0 DIALOGUE WITH RESIDENTS

As noted previously, a representative of the Planning and Building Inspection Department was in attendance at the McPherson Park Junior Secondary School open house. His observations indicated that the reaction to the proposal was mixed and ranged from outright opposition to genuine support. While it was difficult to gain a consensus opinion, this representative is of the view that there is a general acceptance of the proposal to utilize refuse incineration as a viable method of disposing of residential wastes.

Nonetheless, concern was expressed over the fact that it is proposed to be located in Burnaby's Big Bend Area and the residents were worried about the possible environmental impact on the south slope residential areas. In particular, concern was expressed over potential air and noise emissions. This concern was somewhat alleviated as District staff advised that scrubbers are now proposed to be installed in the plant. Residents were also advised of the fact that the electrostatic precipitators would limit particulate emissions.

The fact that this concern exists demonstrates the need for the GVS&DD to clearly outline the procedures to be utilized to reduce air and noise emissions to acceptable limits.

Another major concern of the residents was the potential for the introduction of toxic or other chemical industrial wastes in the refuse to be incinerated.

A further concern was the impact of truck traffic on the residential neighbourhoods. In this regard District staff advised that the number of vehicles would vary from 50 to 90 on any given day, approximately one-half of which would originate within Burnaby. These vehicles would be restricted to using designated truck routes and would not result in any increase in traffic through residential neighbourhoods. Any traffic from the east or west of Burnaby would access the Municipality via Marine Way and then south to the incinerator.

5.0 GVS&DD REPORT ON PROPOSED INCINERATION FACILITY

As noted previously, Council has adopted a resolution requesting the GVS&DD to submit a further report to Council prior to its endorsing the project.

In the main, the information provided by the District and included in the 1984 December 10 Manager's Report No. 79, responds to the issues previously raised by Council and staff. The GVS&DD staff recognize the need to provide further information and have reaffirmed their willingness to fully review all matters with staff and to provide information necessary for inclusion in a further report. This report will include reference to the concerns expressed by the residents as follows:

(a) AIR POLLUTION CONTROL

As noted, one of the main concerns expressed by the residents lay with the method and effectiveness of air pollution control devices. The GVS&DD will provide, therefore, specific information on the method of eliminating the dispersal of particulate contaminants as well as acid gases. In addition, GVS&DD staff will review the computer model prediction data with the Environmental Health Division and the results of this review will be transmitted to Council.

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As a result of the residents' concern, the GVS&DD has stated that they will provide for an air emission monitoring program. Initially was their intention to provide mobile monitoring stations which would obtain samples on a grid system. However, they have advised that they are prepared to install additional permanent stations if required, and that they will review the best method of implementing a monitoring program with Burnaby's Environmental Health Division. Moreover, it is their intention to establish monitoring stations prior to start up of the plant to obtain a three year base from which to analyze future emissions.

(b) PLANT NOISE

The GVS&DD will address the question of predicted plant noise emission level within the surrounding residential communities and have confirmed their intention to fully comply with all By-law requirements. They will also discuss this matter fully with Burnaby's Environmental Health Division and the results of those discussions will be transmitted to Council.

(c) EXCLUSION OF CHEMICAL INDUSTRIAL WASTES

The District had previously stated that most of the refuse going to the incineration plant will be from Municipal collection of household refuse and pickup of wastes from small businesses along the route. This will be complemented by deliveries of refuse collected by commercial haulers which load containers. Preference will be given to containers coming from apartment and condominium developments. Exclusion of chemical industrial wastes will be the responsibility of the waste collector and of the Municipality which can regulate exclusion of unacceptable wastes through its refuse collection bylaw.

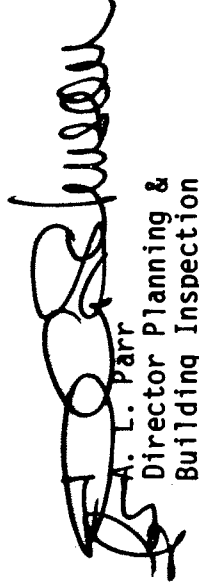
The GVS&DD has stated that both it and the incineration plant operator will cooperate fully to keep unacceptable wastes from entering plant. The GVS&DD will detail operating procedures and provide information on the degree to which any such materials will be incinerated and what the expectations are relative to the elimination of such waste material.

6.0 SUMMARY

In staff's opinion, the open houses provided a good opportunity for residents to gain a better understanding of the refuse incineration proposal. The fact that concern exists over the potential impact of this proposed facility on Burnaby's south slope residential areas is recognized by the GVS&DD and they will provide information to staff for transmittal to Council addressing these concerns.

PB:lf

cc: Chief Public Health Inspector


A. L. Parr
Director Planning &
Building Inspection

