

ITEM "SUPPLEMENTARY" 30
MANAGER'S REPORT NO. 51
COUNCIL MEETING 85/07/29

RE: RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1985 JUNE 13 TOXIC CHEMICAL
DISCHARGE TO BRUNETTE RIVER

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER
1985 July 26

FROM: CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

RE: RESULTS OF INVESTIGATION INTO THE 1985 JUNE 13
TOXIC CHEMICAL DISCHARGE TO BRUNETTE RIVER

RECOMMENDATION:

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

SUMMARY:

The Environmental Health Division's investigation into the 1985 June 13 Brunette River fish kill has located a Lake City industry discharging a chlorinated phenol into the Burnaby storm sewer, which discharges to a tributary of Burnaby Lake.

Environment Canada staff have stated that they do not have sufficient evidence to prove this discharge as the cause of the 1985 June 13 Brunette River fish kill. At this time, the Environmental Health Division is proceeding with discussions with Provincial Crown Prosecutors on the laying of charges under authority of the Provincial Health Act or Burnaby Sewer Bylaw for illegal discharge of an industrial waste to the Burnaby storm sewer system.

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R E P O R T

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A. BACKGROUND

During the afternoon of 1985 June 13, a toxic chemical was discharged through the Burnaby storm sewer system to Brunette River. The toxic chemical discharge resulted in a depletion of 2-3,000 fish stock in Brunette River. The depleted fish stock included trout, coho, carp and a variety of other bottom fish.

On 1985 June 27, Environment Canada advised that their laboratory analysis of sediment and fish tissue collected during the 1985 June 13 fish kill revealed that a chlorinated phenol was the toxic chemical discharged into the Burnaby storm sewer system and eventually into Brunette River.

The laboratory findings of chlorinated phenols in the Brunette River sediment prompted the Environmental Health Division to post the following public warning at Brunette River public trail entry sites.

1985 JUNE 27

FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION

Recently, two to three thousand fish stock in the Burnaby portion of the Brunette River were killed by an illegal toxic chemical discharge.

Analysis conducted by Environment Canada has determined chlorinated phenol (wood preservative) as a chemical involved.

Until such time as the source of the discharge is known and Environment Canada has determined the residual effects of the chemical on remaining fish stock, we are recommending that any fish caught in the Burnaby portion of the Brunette River not be used for public consumption.

For further information, please call:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| ENVIRONMENT CANADA | 666-6711 |
| BURNABY ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH DIVISION | 294-7390 |
| - Weekends, Holidays & Evenings | 294-7200 |

B. INVESTIGATION RESULTS

Staff from the Environmental Health Division and Environment Canada collected sediment samples at creeks discharging to the Brunette River from North Road to Eagle Creek, Burnaby Lake. The results of the sediment analysis revealed that Creek No. 3, a tributary of Burnaby Lake, approximately one quarter mile west of Cariboo Dam, was the source of the chlorinated phenol discharge.

Since 1985 July 04, Environmental Health Division staff have been obtaining samples of algae and sediment from the interior of storm sewer pipes within the Lake City area bounded by Thunderbird Crescent, Production Way, Loughheed Highway and Eastlake Drive. Also included in the sampling were storm sewer catchbasins and sumps from suspect industries within the above-noted drainage area.

C. LABORATORY ANALYSIS

On 1985 July 25, staff from the Environment Canada laboratory advised that a legal sample of a storm sewer sump from an industry within the area of Lake City under investigation revealed the presence of a chlorinated phenol. A dye test of the discharge to the storm sewer was taken to ensure a connection to the Burnaby storm sewer system. The results of this dye test revealed a proper connection to the Burnaby storm sewer system which discharges to Creek No. 3, a tributary of Burnaby Lake.

During a meeting on 1985 July 26, Environment Canada staff advised that, based upon the information available to date, they cannot state that the discharge located by the Environmental Health Division was responsible for the 1985 June 13 Brunette River fish kill.

At this time, the Environmental Health Division is discussing with the Provincial Crown Prosecutors' office the laying of charges under the Provincial Health Act or Municipal Sewer Bylaw for the illegal discharge of an industrial waste to the Burnaby storm sewer system.

It is the intention of the Environmental Health Division to proceed with the laying of charges, providing they are approved by the Crown Prosecutor's office.

D. ACTION TAKEN

On 1985 July 25 the suspect industry was ordered by the Environmental Health Division to immediately proceed with the following:

1. Have the contents of the storm sewer sump pumped out.
2. Have the contents of the storm sewer sump barrelled and stored on their property. The Waste Management Branch, Ministry of Environment, has been advised with regards to ultimate disposal of the contents of the storm sewer sump.
3. Immediately cease production using chlorinated phenol products.

The suspect industry immediately complied with these orders. Environmental Health Division staff are currently conducting inspections of the suspect industry's processes to determine how the chlorinated phenols were introduced into their storm sewer sump.

GVH:1a

cc: Director Administrative & Community Services
Medical Health Officer

G.V. Harvie

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

