

RE: LETTER FROM MS. EVE SAMPLE WHICH APPEARED ON THE AGENDA FOR THE
MARCH 16TH MEETING OF COUNCIL (ITEM 4 A)

PROJECTED EMISSIONS OF DIOXINS FROM G.V.R.D. REFUSE INCINERATOR

ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

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

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1987 MARCH 12

FROM: CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUBJECT: PROJECTED EMISSIONS OF DIOXINS
FROM G.V.R.D. REFUSE INCINERATOR

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT Council request the G.V.R.D. to report on the ability of the
existing municipal waste collection bylaws to eliminate hazardous
chemicals from the G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator, as outlined in this
report.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to:
 - (a) Ms. E. Sample, 5815 Gilpin Street, Burnaby, B.C. V5G 2J1 and
 - (b) Greater Vancouver Regional District, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby,
B.C., V5H 4G8.

REPORT

Further to a letter addressed to Municipal Council from Ms. E. Sample, 5815
Gilpin Street, Burnaby, B.C. regarding the emission of dioxins from the
G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator, we would advise as follows.

1.0 AUTHORIZATION OF EMISSIONS FROM THE G.V.R.D. REFUSE INCINERATOR:

The Provincial Minister of Environment has authorized the air emission
characteristics for the G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator currently being
constructed in the Big Bend area of this Municipality.

The requirements approved by the Minister were based upon a report by the
Ministry of Environment titled "G.V.R.D. Refuse Incinerator, Assessment
and Recommendations on Emission and Monitoring Requirements, July 1986".
Staff from this Municipality's Environmental Health Division were active
members of the Committee which authored this report.

The emission standards set for the G.V.R.D. incinerator generally reflect
the most stringent levels applied by other jurisdictions in the world.
Monitoring requirements include stack testing, community ambient air
quality monitoring, soil and vegetation assessment.

The approval by the Minister included the structuring of a Committee to
evaluate and report on the monitoring data. This Health Department's
Medical Health Officer has been nominated to the Committee as the Greater
Vancouver Metropolitan Board of Health Representative.

2.0 ENQUIRY REGARDING DIOXIN EMISSIONS:

139

The Technical Committee's review of the projected level of dioxins from the G.V.R.D. incinerator concluded that the design of the incinerator and pollution abatement equipment should adequately control emission of dioxins.

In order to ensure that pollution abatement equipment is effectively controlling the emission of dioxins, assessment of the ambient levels of dioxins in soils and vegetables from the farming areas of Burnaby and Richmond will be conducted in 1987 and repeated after start-up of the incinerator. In addition, after 2,500 hours of operation, extensive stack sampling will be conducted which will include analysis for trace organics such as dioxins.

The data provided by this sampling will be reviewed by the Technical Committee which includes the Burnaby Medical Health Officer.

3.0 ENQUIRY DURING THE 1987 MARCH 16 MEETING OF COUNCIL:

3.1 Refuse Incinerators Operating in Multiple Residential Buildings

The G.V.R.D. Pollution Control are currently examining their bylaw which regulates the air emissions associated with the operation of apartment type refuse incinerators. The G.V.R.D. is responding to concerns regarding the unsatisfactory air emissions associated with refuse incineration in apartment type buildings throughout the Lower Mainland.

The G.V.R.D. will be discussing this issue and proposed legislative changes with Environmental Health Division staff.

3.2 Municipal Refuse Collection Bylaws

Council has previously expressed the concern whether municipalities that will be using the G.V.R.D. incinerator have refuse collection bylaws that exclude hazardous wastes, (chemicals, insecticides, etc.).

As this concern has not been resolved, we would recommend Council request the G.V.R.D. to convene a committee and report on the ability of the existing municipal refuse collection bylaws to eliminate hazardous chemicals from the G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator.

Copies of the Ministry of Environment's Approval Document for the G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator are available in the Environmental Health Division's Office.

We have discussed the contents of this report with Ms. E. Sample and offered to make staff available for discussion of the G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator's projected air emissions and monitoring requirements.

The Environmental Health Division will submit further reports to Council on the monitoring data associated with the operation of the G.V.R.D. refuse incinerator.

GVH/g1

cc: Director Administrative &
Community Services
Medical Health Officer
Director of Engineering
Director Planning &
Building Inspection

George J. Harvie

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