

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY  
ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR  
AND ALDERMEN:

RE: HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES PILOT PROGRAM

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT the Environmental & Waste Management Committee recommend to Council that staff proceed with the revised household hazardous waste pilot program, as outlined in this report.
2. THAT one-half of the collection costs to a maximum of \$2,000 be approved to hire a private contractor.
3. THAT copies of this report be sent to:
  - a) Mr. Kelvin Hickey, Response Officer, Ministry of Environment, Waste Management Branch, 810 Blanshard Street, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X5.
  - b) Ms. Christina Jacobs, Environmental Engineer, G.V.R.D., Engineering Dept., Solid Waste Division, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G8.
  - c) Mr. David Sims, B.C. Public Interest Research Group, Simon Fraser University, 8888 Barnet Highway, Burnaby, B.C., V5A 1S5.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND:

Council, at its regular meeting held on 1989 January 03, received a delegation from the British Columbia Public Interest Research Group (BCPIRG) regarding the establishment of a pilot program for the collection and disposal of household hazardous wastes (HHW). Council authorized Municipal staff to work with the BCPIRG in developing the HHW Pilot Project.

The Simon Fraser local of the British Columbia Public Interest Research Group is a student funded and directed research and advocacy organization, established in 1981, which applies student research efforts towards resolving issues that concern the community at large.

BCPIRG applied for and received a grant from Environment Canada to carry out a study and pilot program regarding household hazardous wastes during the Environment Week, 1989 (June 4-10).

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| <u>INTERNAL DISTRIBUTION:</u> |                                   |
| : - AGENDA                    | 1989 MAY 15                       |
| : - COPY                      | - ACTING MUNICIPAL MANAGER        |
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|                               | - CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR   |

For the information of Committee members, it is B.C. Provincial Ministry of Environment's mandate to regulate and provide disposal facilities for special wastes generated within British Columbia. However, household hazardous wastes are exempt from the Provincial Special Waste Regulations. Consequently, household hazardous wastes often end up being disposed of in municipal sanitary or storm sewers or household garbage, and as such pose a significant environmental and community health problem.

## 2.0 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTES PILOT PROJECT:

Staff from the Environmental Health Division and Engineering Department have met on several occasions with representatives of BCPIRG, Environment Canada, B.C. Ministry of Environment, and G.V.R.D. to discuss a pilot program for the collection and disposal of HHW. The initial direction of this pilot program was for a Burnaby-wide, one day collection program at a centrally located depot, to coincide with Environment Week. A 1% participation rate is estimated with such a program, resulting in the potential collection of approximately one hundred drums of HHW requiring disposal.

During these initial discussions, the Ministry of Environment advised that they could not guarantee that a collection of this magnitude would be accepted for disposal at their facility. If the Province did not accept the waste collected, it would become the Municipality's responsibility to arrange for disposal at a cost of \$300 to \$500 per drum, for a possible total of \$30,000 to \$50,000. Including other costs in coordinating and attending a collection depot could result in costs of \$60,000 to \$70,000.

At the 1989 April 20 meeting of the Environment and Waste Management Committee, staff apprised Committee members of the status of the HHW pilot project and recommended against proceeding with it at this time. It was staff's opinion that without commitment from the Province to dispose of the collected material, the Municipality would be faced with a hazardous waste storage problem along with a very expensive disposal option. In addition, staff were reluctant to undertake such a program since it would have transferred the responsibility for hazardous waste disposal from the Province to our Municipality. The Environment and Waste Management Committee concurred and instructed staff to not participate in this Household Hazardous Waste Pilot Project and to continue working with the BCPIRG on other alternatives for a pilot project.

## 3.0 REVISED HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE PILOT PROJECT:

In a subsequent meeting between BCPIRG, Environment Canada, B.C. Ministry of Environment, G.V.R.D. and Municipal staff, a revised pilot project was discussed. It is now proposed that the pilot program survey a sample of Burnaby households (four distinct and separate areas) to determine types of hazardous materials in households, to inventory these materials and to provide a mobile vehicle for their collection. The Ministry of Environment is prepared to provide in writing to the acceptance of these wastes - which will be limited to a maximum of ten drums. The collection, segregation, packaging and delivering of these wastes to the Ministry's Surrey warehouse will be undertaken by a private contractor.

The Municipalities involvement in this revised pilot project is to fund one-half of the collection costs up to a maximum of \$2,000, to contract with a private contractor for his services, and to concur with allowing this pilot project to proceed in Burnaby. The G.V.R.D. will fund the other one-half of the collection costs. The B.C. Ministry of Environment will receive the collected wastes and will bear the costs of its disposal. The BCPIRG will produce and provide the questionnaire and the staff to interview residents.

Staff recommend support of this revised Household Hazardous Waste Pilot Project, subject to confirmation that the G.V.R.D. will fund one-half of the collection costs and that the B.C. Ministry of Environment provide in writing a commitment to accept the collected wastes.

Funds for the Municipal contribution to the pilot project are available in the Environmental Health Division's research account.

4.0 HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE COLLECTION DAY - SEATTLE, WASHINGTON:

The City of Seattle is providing a household hazardous waste collecting day on 1989 June 03 as an extension to their ongoing existing program of accepting limited types of household wastes. Environmental Health Division staff will be attending to observe the process involved during the subject collection day.

Respectfully submitted,

Alderman J.M. Sawicki  
Chair

Alderman D.R. Corrigan  
Member

Alderman D.P. Drummond  
Member