

ITEM	Supplementary	23
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.		43
COUNCIL MEETING		89/06/19

RE: LETTER FROM GREATER VANCOUVER WATER DISTRICT, 4330 KINGSWAY, BURNABY, B.C., V5H 4G8
 PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE THROUGH COQUITLAM WATERSHED

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendations of the Acting Director Engineering be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1989 JUNE 15

FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: PROPOSED NATURAL GAS PIPELINE THROUGH COQUITLAM WATERSHED

PURPOSE: To respond to a letter from the Greater Vancouver Water District regarding the Public Hearing on the proposed natural gas pipeline through the Coquitlam Watershed.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council support the Greater Vancouver Water District by opposing in principle, the construction of a natural gas pipeline through the Coquitlam Watershed.
2. THAT copies of this report be sent to:
 - a) Douglas MacKay, Commissioner of Inquiry into Pipeline Routes in and Around the Coquitlam Watershed, #902 - 365 Hornby Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2G3, and
 - b) Michael J. O'Connor, Commissioner, Greater Vancouver Water District, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby, B.C., V5H 4G8.

REPORT

Appearing elsewhere on this agenda is a letter from the Greater Vancouver Water District (G.V.W.D.) regarding the Public Hearing on the proposed natural gas pipeline routes in and around the Coquitlam Watershed. The Public Hearing will be held by Mr. Douglas MacKay as Commissioner of Inquiry on 1989 June 22.

Mr. MacKay assumes that municipal concerns will be coordinated through the G.V.W.D. however he invites municipalities to make individual submissions.

The G.V.W.D. is the purveyor of potable water to its member municipalities. The G.V.W.D. supplies surface source water from three watersheds: Capilano, Seymour and Coquitlam. Burnaby generally obtains its water supply from the Seymour Watershed however in the event of source interruption, the G.V.W.D. has the ability to switch sources. Notwithstanding the fact that Burnaby does not take any primary feed from the Coquitlam Watershed, staff would view the management of the three watersheds as a singular entity with any decision taken on one area having an effect on the management practices of the entire water district. To date, the G.V.W.D. has protected its pristine water sources by

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exercising a policy of "closed" watershed management, ie. closed to unnecessary human intrusion. Strict controls over human access and activities in the watersheds have enabled the G.V.W.D. to maintain high water quality and to treat the water with chlorine only prior to use. The watershed management and access control program is recognized by health authorities as providing a barrier which protects public health.

The issue of the proposed natural gas pipeline through the Coquitlam watershed has been the subject of several actions by the Administration Board of the G.V.W.D. Specifically, the Administration Board has made the following principal statements:

On 1989 March 22 -

"That the Pacific Coast Energy Corporation Route Assessment Report on the Coquitlam Watershed be received and the company be advised that the projected impact on water quality and the monitoring program and mitigative measures for addressing this impact are unacceptable. And further, that the Board advise the Commission and Provincial and Federal Governments of its decision to oppose the pipeline construction through the Coquitlam Watershed."

On 1989 May 02 at a special meeting with the Honourable Jack Davis -

"That the Administration Board reaffirm its position, taken at its meeting of April 26, 1989, that on the basis of evidence contained in the British Columbia Utilities Commission report, there is insufficient information to conclude that the risk to the water supply is acceptable and manageable and the Administration Board opposes the proposed construction of a natural gas pipeline through the Coquitlam Watershed."

On 1989 May 31 -

"That information on current investigations be forwarded to the Board and that the Board as a whole make recommendations and forward them to the Inquiry Commission and,

That the Board advise Mr. MacKay that others are encouraged to provide information to the Inquiry Commission directly."

Municipal staff have not had the opportunity, resources or mandate to investigate the detailed implications of the proposed pipeline route. However staff would view an intrusion into the "closed" watersheds as an exceedingly significant and undesirable precedent which should be avoided if at all possible. Consequently staff would strongly recommend that Council support the G.V.W.D. by expressing opposition, in principle, to the proposed construction of a natural gas pipeline through the Coquitlam Watershed.


ACTING DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

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cc: Director Administrative & Community Services
Chief Public Health Inspector