

RE: LETTER FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP WHICH APPEARED  
ON THE AGENDA FOR THE 1989 JANUARY 03 MEETING OF COUNCIL (Item 2b)  
REGARDING DOMESTIC HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPOSAL

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Director Engineering be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1988 JANUARY 09

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: DOMESTIC HAZARDOUS WASTE PROPOSAL  
FROM THE BRITISH COLUMBIA PUBLIC  
INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE STAFF'S COMMENTS ON THE  
DELEGATION OF THE BRITISH COLUMBIA  
PUBLIC INTEREST RESEARCH GROUP  
REGARDING THEIR PROPOSAL FOR A PILOT  
PROGRAM ON DOMESTIC HAZARDOUS WASTE DISPOSAL

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

BACKGROUND

Appearing before Council, at its regular meeting held on 1989 January 03, was a delegation from the British Columbia Public Interest Research Group (BCPIRG) regarding the establishment of a pilot program for domestic hazardous waste disposal. BCPIRG was submitting a proposal for funding to Environment Canada to undertake this pilot program in Burnaby and requested approval in principle from Council as well as Council's authorization to have Municipal staff work with BCPIRG on the program's implementation. Council adopted a resolution granting approval in principle and authorized Municipal staff to work with BCPIRG in developing a domestic hazardous waste pilot project.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Staff had met previously with Mr. David Sims, Chairman, Board of Directors, BCPIRG, and are generally supportive of the pilot project. However, staff identified several issues that require consideration prior to the action component (the one-day collection program) of the pilot project being implemented, namely:

1. A secure, environmentally safe location.
2. Transportation hazards to and from the site.
3. Appropriate regulations regarding collection and transportation.
4. Appropriateness of utilizing volunteers in the handling of hazardous wastes.
5. Mandate and responsibilities of each level of government regarding the collection, transportation, and disposal of hazardous wastes.
6. Feasibility of identifying and cataloguing a potential myriad of different wastes, and
7. Increased Municipal liability due to participating in the pilot project.


Of particular importance would be the ownership of the hazardous wastes that are collected if the program should proceed. Staff are concerned that if the Ministry of Environment, Waste Management Branch, is not party to the pilot project, then the Corporation could for an indefinite period end up with a stockpile of hazardous material for which it has no disposal site.

Staff are supportive of the research analysis component of the pilot project because if the actual collection of hazardous wastes does not proceed, identification of the problems encountered would be a most worthwhile endeavour, especially for future projects.

#### CURRENT STATUS

Staff have requested a copy of the BCPIRG proposal to Environment Canada in order to determine more fully the extent of proposed Municipal commitment to the project. Although this proposal is due by 1989 January 09, staff have been unsuccessful in obtaining a copy prior to tonight's Council meeting. Staff will provide further status reports to Council on this matter when this information becomes available and/or discussions ensue.

It is imperative that any project involving hazardous wastes be conducted in such a manner as to strictly comply with all applicable regulations to ensure the safety of all participants and to eliminate any potential negative impact on the environment. Meeting these requirements will obviously incur a cost, the magnitude of which has not yet even been estimated. Staff will provide every assistance primarily through the resources inherent in the Environmental Health Industrial Waste Section to BCPIRG on this project, however, it will be necessary to proceed cautiously in this very sensitive area of hazardous waste.

  
E. E. Olson, P. Eng.  
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

HDH/WCS:ka

cc: Director Administrative and Community Services  
Chief Public Health Inspector