

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 OCTOBER 17

FROM: ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUBJECT: ESCORT SERVICE FOR TANKER TRAFFIC IN BURRARD INLET

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION ABOUT ERV ESCORT RESPONSE VESSELS INC. WHICH PROVIDES AN ESCORT SERVICE FOR TANKER TRAFFIC AND TO DISCUSS THE NEED TO REQUIRE ALL OIL AND CHEMICAL TANKER TRAFFIC USING THE BURRARD INLET TO USE SUCH A SERVICE.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Vancouver Port Corporation be asked to consider requiring all oil and chemical carrying tankers using Burrard Inlet to use escort vessels with spill containment and recovery capability.
2. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to:
 - (a) Captain Norman C. Stark, Acting Port Manager and Chief Operating Officer, Vancouver Port Corporation, Suite 1900 - 200 Granville Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6C 2P9,
 - (b) Honourable John Reynolds, Minister of Environment, Room 112, Parliament Buildings, Victoria, B.C., V8V 1X4, and
 - (c) City of Vancouver and all Municipalities bounded by the Burrard Inlet.

REPORT

1.0 BACKGROUND:

During the regular Council Meeting on 1990 September 24, an inquiry was made about a business operating out of North Vancouver which provides escort service for tanker traffic in the Burrard Inlet.

Arising from Council's discussion, staff were requested to prepare a report on this service including whether the Municipality should require all tanker traffic using the Burrard Inlet to use such a service.

2.0 PROVISION OF ESCORT SERVICE FOR OIL AND CHEMICAL CARRYING TANKERS USING BURRARD INLET:

Environmental Health Division staff have conducted an initial review of ERV Escort Response Vessels Inc., a business operating from North Vancouver, which provides an escort service to tanker traffic.

It is staff's understanding that some of the shippers such as Esso, do require a tug escort for their tankers when using the Burrard Inlet. However, such an escort does not have the capability of providing immediate on-site supervision, spill containment and recovery services, or the ability to fight fires. ERV Escort Response Vessels Inc. has made provisions to provide these additional services.

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While it is recognized that organizations such as Burrard Clean and Vancouver Port Corporation do have the capability of responding to spills in the Burrard Inlet, escort vessels with spill response capabilities will provide an added security to ensure minimal damage to the environment in the event of an oil or chemical tanker spill in Burrard Inlet.

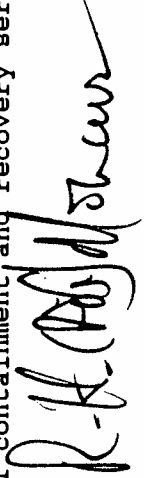
It is therefore staff's opinion that Vancouver Port Corporation should require all oil and chemical carrying tankers using Burrard Inlet to provide an escort to the tankers which includes provision for spill containment and recovery services.

3.0 CONCLUSION:

Environmental Health Division staff have conducted an initial review of ERV Escort Response Vessels Inc. which provides an escort service for tankers including the provision of immediate site supervision, spill containment and recovery services as well as the ability to fight fires.

It is staff's opinion that the concept of an escort vessel to provide these "additional" services will supplement the present spill response mechanisms in the Burrard Inlet and ensure minimal damage to the environment in an event of an oil or chemical tanker spill in the Burrard Inlet.

As such, the Vancouver Port Corporation should require all oil and chemical tankers using Burrard Inlet to provide an escort to the tankers which includes provisions for spill containment and recovery services.


R. K. Johnston, C.P.H.I.(C)
ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

DD/KCJ/gl

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