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MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	52
COUNCIL MEETING	90/08/27

TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 AUGUST 22

FROM: ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUBJECT: VANCOUVER CITY TASK FORCE ON ATMOSPHERIC CHANGE - "CLOUDS OF CHANGE"  
REPORT

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH A REPORT THAT WOULD SERVE AS A SUBMISSION TO VANCOUVER CITY COUNCIL RESPONDING TO MAJOR POINTS MADE BY THE TASK FORCE IN THEIR REPORT AND OUTLINING INITIATIVES TAKEN BY BURNABY TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

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RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be forwarded to Vancouver City Council for consideration at their meeting on 1990 September 25 to discuss "Clouds of Change" report.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the regular Council Meeting held on 1990 August 13, Council received correspondence from the City of Vancouver inviting Council to attend a special meeting on 1990 September 25, to discuss the report of the Atmospheric Change Task Force entitled, "Clouds of Change".

As the Council will be unable to attend the 1990 September 25 meeting as it falls on the same date as a Public Hearing, staff were requested to prepare a brief report that would serve as a submission to Vancouver City Council responding to major points made by the task force in their report and outlining initiatives taken by Burnaby to improve air quality.

2.0 "CLOUDS OF CHANGE" REPORT

Staff upon reviewing the subject report commend the task force in producing a comprehensive view of problems associated with atmospheric change and the formulation of a subsequent framework of action that needs to be undertaken to reduce the emissions of atmospheric pollutants.

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Although some of the recommendations made in the report to address the targets seem ambitious, they are necessary to reduce the destruction of the ozone layer, and minimize the enhancement of the greenhouse effect. The importance of providing transportation alternatives that reduce impacts to the environment, as well as recognizing atmospheric change as a public health issue cannot be stressed enough.

Staff do concur that local action to initiate and encourage thoughtful and resolute response can and will make a difference. However, since atmospheric change is a multidimensional problem and cannot be dealt in isolation, other municipalities in the Lower Mainland region may wish to initiate coordinated actions that will provide a cohesive approach in resolving common problems and thereby increase the overall reduction of emissions of atmospheric pollutants.

### 3.0 INITIATIVES TAKEN BY BURNABY TO IMPROVE AIR QUALITY

Burnaby, while participating in improving the regional air quality, has initiated a number of initiatives cited in the "Clouds of Change" report some of which are noted below.

Burnaby was amongst the first municipalities to provide a service to its residents for picking up household refrigerators and removing chlorofluoro-carbons (C.F.C.s) prior to their disposal. Furthermore, the Municipal Legal Department is formulating a bylaw to regulate the emission of C.F.C.s from appliances during repair or prior to disposal. Staff have also met with the Vancouver City Law Department to discuss drafting of such a bylaw.

In the past, a number of complaints were received from Burnaby residents regarding hydrocarbon and hydrogen sulfide odours from petroleum tank farms and loading docks in North Burnaby. Due to extensive work done by Burnaby Council on this issue, all the existing single sealed tanks at petroleum storage tank farms were required to be double sealed and vapor scrubbing systems were mandated while loading crude oil products onto ships or barges. New tanks installed were required to have geodesic domes with vapour recovery and scrubbing systems. This has substantially reduced the release of emission of pollutants. Furthermore, a local Burnaby refinery has recently announced that a vapor recovery system will soon be in place at their bulk loading terminal further reducing atmospheric pollutants.

With respect to the transportation issue, the Municipality of Burnaby in its response to the provincial transportation plan has adopted an overall approach which recognizes not a balance of roads and transit projects but instead the more aggressive promotion of transit, including the pursuit of road improvements to carry more people in high occupancy vehicles. Burnaby Council views these efforts to more fully utilize the transportation system during peak periods as essential to maintain the quality of life in Burnaby and the region against the pressures of growth, development and travel demand. Furthermore, Burnaby Council has directed staff to prepare for an environmental event to be held during 1990 October 01 - 05 to raise public awareness of the impact of transportation on the environment.

One of the recommendations in the "Clouds of Change" report included making bicycles a better transportation alternative. In 1990 June, Burnaby Council approved in principle an urban trail system for Burnaby. One of the objectives of the urban trail system is "to provide a system of separated urban walkways, with provisions for cycling, for use and enjoyment of all residents of Burnaby". In achieving this objective, the urban trail system will "promote a transportation network for pedestrians and cyclists as an alternative to the use of the automobile". Burnaby is also making provision for cyclists in the design of all major road projects in Burnaby by providing a viable alternative to automobile transportation. The urban trail system, a provision for cyclists on new roads will contribute to a decrease in air pollution caused by automobiles.

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Burnaby is also presently in a process of preparing a State of the Environment Report (SOER) for Burnaby. The SOER will provide a comprehensive framework for identifying and addressing environmental issues and concerns in the municipality including air quality problems. In addition, in 1991 the Burnaby Conceptual Transportation Plan will be updated to reflect environmental issues.

4.0 CONCLUSION

Staff upon reviewing the "Clouds of Change" report commend the task force in producing a comprehensive view of problems associated with atmospheric change and formulation of subsequent framework of action that needs to be undertaken to reduce the emissions of atmospheric pollutants. Furthermore, the importance of providing transportation alternatives that reduce impacts to the environment, as well as recognizing atmospheric change as a public health issue cannot be stressed enough.

It is the local action to initiate and encourage thoughtful and resolute response that can and will make a difference. However, since atmospheric change is a multidimensional problem and cannot be dealt with in isolation, municipalities in the Lower Mainland should initiate coordinated actions similar to those in Burnaby, to increase the overall reduction of emissions of atmospheric pollutants.



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