

ITEM	1
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	33
COUNCIL MEETING	90/05/07

RE: ADVERTISEMENT IN 1990 APRIL 18 ISSUE OF BURNABY NOW NEWSPAPER  
REGARDING STORAGE OF SPECIAL WASTE AT 2820 PRODUCTION WAY, BURNABY

MUNICIPAL MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Inspector be adopted.

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TO: MUNICIPAL MANAGER 1990 MAY 02

FROM: ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUBJECT: ADVERTISEMENT IN 1990 APRIL 18 ISSUE OF BURNABY NOW NEWSPAPER  
REGARDING STORAGE OF SPECIAL WASTE AT 2820 PRODUCTION WAY, BURNABY

PURPOSE: TO PROVIDE COUNCIL WITH INFORMATION ON STAFF'S INVESTIGATION OF THE  
ADVERTISEMENT INCLUDING SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS POSED  
BY THE PROPOSED STORAGE

RECOMMENDATION:

- i. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION.

During the regular Council Meeting held on 1990 April 23, an inquiry was made on an advertisement in the 1990 April 18 issue of Burnaby Now newspaper. The advertisement from the applicant, American Environmental Management Corp. Services was regarding a notification of an application being filed with the Ministry of Environment to permit the storage of special waste from hospitals, clinics and other sources located within British Columbia at 2820 Production Way, Burnaby.

In response to this information, Council requested that staff investigate the advertisement including safety and environmental implications posed by the proposed storage.

2.0 PROPOSED BIOMEDICAL WASTE STORAGE AT 2820 PRODUCTION WAY, BURNABY:

The Environmental Health Division staff's initial discussion with the applicant, American Environmental Management Corp. Services, revealed that they are an experienced company in the handling of medical waste and have customers in Washington, Oregon, California and Utah.

The proposed operation will serve to store on a short term basis, biomedical waste from hospitals, clinics and other sources located within British Columbia. These wastes will then be transported to their U.S. Environmental Protection Agency approved incinerator in Rancho Cordova, California.

According to the applicant, a maximum of 8,172 kg of biomedical waste will be stored at the proposed site. The waste will be placed in theft proof steel containers within the building and will be kept refrigerated. The storage site will be staffed by three employees and the handling of pre-sorted and boxed wastes will be done manually in order to reduce the chance of an accident.

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3.0 OTHER BIOMEDICAL WASTE COMPANIES OPERATING IN BRITISH COLUMBIA:

Presently there is only one other known specialized biomedical waste haulage company, BFI Medical Waste Systems operating in British Columbia. The BFI Medical Waste Systems serves various hospitals in the Lower Mainland and is estimated to handle two tons of biomedical waste per week. The waste is directly transported to the Thermal Reduction Facility in Bellingham, Washington.

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4.0 CONCERNS REGARDING PROPOSED BIOMEDICAL WASTE STORAGE AT 2820 PRODUCTION WAY, BURNABY:

In reviewing the information provided by the applicant to this Division, the following concerns need to be clarified.

The term "short term storage" needs to be clearly defined. Although the current information indicates this to be a maximum of three days upon receipt of waste at the storage site, it is not clear whether the three day limit will still be maintained if smaller quantities of waste are received than anticipated.

The contingency plan provided in the information package for response to accidents and spills is generic. An emergency or contingency plan more specific to the proposed storage facility is required.

There is a further need to establish the actions that the company will take in an event of business closure, border closure on acceptance of waste in the United States, shutdown of their incinerator due to mechanical or other problems, relocation of existing permits or non-issuance of permits by governmental agencies in future. Copies of the existing permits including the company's biohazardous waste operational procedures are available for review in our Environmental Health Division office.

The existing site must be capable of providing separate eating, washing and changing facilities for the staff, and adequate ventilation. The vehicles used in transporting must also be capable of refrigerating waste.

Environmental Health Division staff are currently discussing these concerns with the applicant prior to making any written comments to the Ministry of Environment. According to staff's discussion with Ministry of Environment officials, the deadline for submitting comments is 1990 May 18, which would be thirty days (30) from the publication of notification. Should the above concerns be responded to in a satisfactory manner, the Environmental Health Division would have no objection to the company's application on the proposed operation.

5.0 COMMENTS FROM PLANNING & BUILDING INSPECTION DEPARTMENT:

The proposed biomedical waste storage facility is located in the M3 Heavy Industrial District which provides for the accommodation of special types of industry and heavy industrial activities. The facility would occupy a portion of an office/warehouse building within the Lake City Business Centre. The office and warehouse components for the waste storage facility would be about 194 square meters (2,093 square feet).

Although the Zoning Bylaw does not specifically identify medical waste storage as a permitted use, the proposed facility can be permitted as a storage building in the M3 District. The containers of waste would be stored entirely within the building, which goes beyond the minimum zoning requirements of the M3 District which permits outdoor storage. From a land use perspective, the Planning & Building Department would confirm that the proposed waste storage facility conforms to the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw. The concerns, as outlined above, would have to be satisfactorily addressed.

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With growing concerns about environmental impacts related to waste-related facilities (e.g. recycling depots, disposal facilities, processing facilities for recyclable materials, etc.) and with the growing demand for such facilities, staff are reviewing the provisions of the Zoning Bylaw as it relates to those types of uses. A report will be submitted to Council when the review has been completed.

6.0 CONCLUSION:

Following the advertisement in the 1990 April 18 issue of Burnaby Now newspaper, Environmental Health Division staff have contacted the applicant to discuss the proposed storage of special waste at 2820 Production Way, Burnaby.

Concerns noted upon reviewing information are currently being discussed with the applicant prior to submitting any written comments to the Ministry of Environment.



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

DD/KCJ:ro

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

