

THE CORPORATION OF THE DISTRICT OF BURNABY
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND ALDERMEN

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT & WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
RE: G.V.R.D. INCINERATOR - MITIGATION OF FEES

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received by Council and used as a brief to the G.V.R.D. outlining the rationale for financial recognition to Burnaby in the form of mitigation payments for having the incinerator located in Burnaby.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Environment & Waste Management Committee at its meeting of 1990 February 13 adopted the motions

"THAT staff prepare a report for the purpose of seeking financial recognition by the G.V.R.D. in favour of Burnaby for locating the incinerator in this Municipality; and further,

'THAT the staff report reiterate Burnaby's commitment to recycling as opposed to incineration as the primary means of waste disposal but recognize that even with recycling there may be a continued role for incineration and that compensation be pursued in that light.'"

The following report is submitted in response to the above motions. The report identifies and consolidates those issues which Council and/or the Committee has expressed previously regarding location of the incinerator within Burnaby. It is recommended that the statement of issues be included in a brief from Council to the G.V.R.D. and it is further recommended that financial recognition as described in Sections 2.3 and 3.0 be presented to G.V.R.D. requesting a mitigation payment.

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AGENDA 1990 JULY 09

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- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
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2.0 ISSUES

Burnaby Municipal Council is committed to providing its public services in a manner which reflects an awareness of environmental impacts and which is sensitive to environmental issues and concerns. Burnaby has been adopting policies in line with the "Rs" of solid waste management - rethink, reduce, recycle, recover and reuse. Burnaby is opposed to incineration as a primary means of waste disposal but rather is of the opinion that incineration should only be considered for the end fraction of solid waste after the strategies of reduction and recycling have been fully utilized.

2.1 Tonnage Processed

The G.V.R.D. incinerator is located in the Big Bend Area of Burnaby and serves as the primary disposal facility for garbage generated not only from Burnaby but also from West Vancouver, North Vancouver (City and District), New Westminster and West Surrey. In addition, some residue wastes from the Coquitlam Resource Recovery Plant are directed to the incinerator. Council has expressed previously its opposition to the current capacity of the incinerator and, although Council acknowledges the reality of the existing facility, Council is of the opinion that Burnaby should receive financial recognition for hosting the facility.

Burnaby Council at its meeting held on 1985 November 25 considered the matter of capacity of the Solid Waste Incinerator and adopted the following motion

"THAT the Council of the Corporation of the District of Burnaby notify the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District that the Council is opposed to the expansion of the incinerator from 140,000 tonnes to 210,000 tonnes per annum."

Notwithstanding this objection, the incinerator was constructed with a rated design capacity of 210,000 tonnes/annum. Council subsequently became aware that the 210,000 tonnes/annum figure was the capacity of the incinerator with it operating 85% of the time. A 100% operation reflects a throughput of 240,000 tonnes/annum. The actual tonnage processed in the first year of operation was approximately 240,000 tonnes or some 30,000 tonnes in excess of the rated capacity.

2.2 Environmental Aspects

The major environmental issues of concern with respect to the G.V.R.D. incinerator include air emissions, ash disposal and utilization, and the costs of developing and implementing local programs to assist in removal of hazardous waste materials from the residential refuse prior to incineration.

Due to the nature of the operation of the incinerator, there is a potential of short and long term impact from the air emissions on the residents of Burnaby located in the vicinity of the incinerator. Such an impact becomes even more likely in an event of an "upset" at the incinerator. These "upsets" do occur and have been noted in various G.V.R.D. reports.

2.2 Environmental Aspects (Cont.)

There are also concerns regarding the variability of ash quality due to the heterogeneous nature of incoming waste. These concerns are further compounded due to the questions raised in sampling and analysis techniques of ash while determining its quality.

Furthermore, the incinerator is generating large quantities of ash including flyash which is classified as special waste, without any long term strategy for ash disposal and utilization. Although the ash is currently being taken to the landfill in Coquitlam, the site will be filled to capacity within approximately two years.

Furthermore, the operation of the incinerator has required the development of programs such as lead-acid and household battery removal, at a cost to Burnaby, in order to minimize the release of toxic metals from the incinerator air emissions or ash.

2.3 Municipal Taxation

The incinerator is located at 5150 Thorn Avenue and this property is shown on the 1990 Assessment Roll as being owned by the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District (G.V.S. & D.D.). The assessed value of the land and improvements in 1990 is:

Land	\$ 556,300
Improvements	<u>5,850,000</u>
TOTAL	\$6,406,300 =====

The property is classed 06, Business and Other for assessment purposes. However under Section 65(2) of the G.V.S. & D.D. Act, the land is taxable but the improvements are exempt. Consequently in 1990, the general Municipal property taxes were \$8,144.45. However if the improvements were considered taxable, in 1990, the additional general Municipal property taxes would have been \$85,646.34.

3.0 FINANCIAL RECOGNITION

3.1 Equitable Taxation

As stated in Section 2.3 of this report, the G.V.S. & D.D. is exempt from taxation on its improvements. For the incinerator property this would have equated to an additional \$85,646.34 in general municipal taxes in 1990. The private industries in the surrounding area paid full municipal taxation and thus more equitably contributed to funding of the services which they utilized. It is conceivable that the G.V.R.D. could make payment on the basis of a taxation structure which is equitable with private businesses and industries.

4.0 CONCLUSIONS

This report has been prepared to describe the issues and concerns associated with the siting of the G.V.R.D. incinerator within Burnaby. It is recommended that Council pursue the concept of financial recognition and that an approach be made to the G.V.R.D. Administration Board on the basis that the G.V.R.D. compensate the Municipality in an amount equivalent to that which the G.V.R.D. would pay in general Municipal taxes if it were not exempt under Section 65(2) of the G.V.S. & D.D. Act.

Respectfully Submitted,

Alderman J.M. Sawicki
Chair

Alderman D.P. Drummond
Member

Alderman F.G. Randall
Member

Alderman E. Nikolai
Member

Alderman J. Young
Member