

TO: CITY MANAGER 1992 NOVEMBER 04

FROM: ACTING DIRECTOR PLANNING AND BUILDING

SUBJECT: CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM

PURPOSE: TO IDENTIFY A FORMAT FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
CROSS CONNECTION CONTROL PROGRAM AND THE MEANS
AVAILABLE TO RECOVER THE COSTS OF THIS SERVICE.

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Recommendation:

1. THAT Council authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the Cross Connection Program and pursue the necessary bylaw amendments to recover the costs of this service.

REPORT

At its regular meeting of 1992 July 27, Council authorized staff to pursue development of a Cross Connection Control Program and identify the means by which such a program could be implemented including available methods of cost recovery.

As noted in the 1992 July 27 report, a Cross Connection Program is a means to safeguard against the possibility of contaminants entering a potable water piping system.

Since the last report to Council, the Province of B.C. has adopted a new Plumbing Code which comes into effect on 1992 December 01. Sentence 6.2.12.(2) of the new code requires backflow prevention devices be maintained in good working condition.

There are numerous devices that can be installed to protect the potable water system, but unless a program is in place to ensure that the devices are maintained in good working condition, a failure could occur that would render the protection ineffectual.

Since implementing their program the City of Richmond have uncovered some very serious cross connections, through their building surveys, which have now been made safe by the installation of appropriate devices. Primary locations noted were agriculture areas, lumber mills, manufacturing buildings and hospitals (tanks used for mixing chemical sprays, pumps etc.).

Burnaby has a broad cross section of various types of potential areas where cross connections will exist, including agricultural uses, mills, manufacturing plants, oil refineries and hospitals.

Burnaby's Plumbing and Waterworks bylaws will require re-wording to make the complete program mandatory. All jurisdictions that presently have a program in place have the authority, through their bylaw, to terminate the water supply to a building should the owner fail to comply with an order to install the required backflow protection. This authority would also be provided in our bylaws.

Estimated cost to implement program:

One Senior Plumbing and Gas Inspector will be required to implement and monitor the complete program. It is estimated that the total ongoing cost of implementing the program will be approximately \$55,000.00 which includes; salaries, transportation and the purchase of permit forms. An additional amount of approximately \$3,500.00 is initially required for specialized training, computer software, information bulletins and the purchase of a test kit.

Notifying Owners

Notification of intent to conduct a building survey will be sent to each applicable owner requesting a suitable time be arranged to allow our inspector access to check the water distribution system. A follow-up report on the result of the survey will also be sent to the owner.

Cost Recovery

All backflow devices that have test ports are subject to a permit fee. An estimated 10% of the Program cost could be directly recovered through the collection of a plumbing permit fee. The remaining 90% would require a general permit fee increase of 1.5%.

We are currently reviewing our revenue accounts and intend to forward a report to Council prior to 1992 December 31 recommending an increase in fee schedules. The purpose of fee increases is to offset the cost of a cross connection program and increases negotiated in the last collective agreement. A preliminary review of our fees indicates that a general increase is achievable while still maintaining fee schedules consistent with other lower mainland jurisdictions.

Implementation

The Cross connection Program could be implemented by Spring of 1993 which provides the time necessary to make bylaw changes and complete the training of a new employee.

Costs to Building Owners

It may be expected that should the most expensive protection device available, the reduced pressure backflow assembly, be used, the anticipated cost would range between \$200 for 3/4" diameter piping to \$3,500 for 6" diameter piping, plus installation costs.

Conclusions:

In keeping with the contents of this report, it is requested that Council authorize staff to proceed with implementation of the Cross Connection Program to safeguard against the possibility of contaminants entering a potable water piping system.

RJK:lb


D.G. Stenson, ACTING DIRECTOR
PLANNING AND BUILDING