

ITEM	5
MANAGER'S REPORT NO.	1
COUNCIL MEETING	93/01/04

TO: CITY MANAGER 1992 DECEMBER 29

FROM: ACTING CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

SUBJECT: AIR EMISSIONS AND WASTE WATER DISCHARGES FROM SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY, BURNABY, B.C.

PURPOSE: TO INFORM COUNCIL ON THE MANAGEMENT OF AIR EMISSIONS AND WASTE WATER DISCHARGES FROM SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT a copy of this report be forwarded to Mr. Steve Mancinelli, Secretary Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society, 5610 East Georgia Street, Burnaby, B.C., V5B 1V6.
2. THAT the G.V.R.D. be urged to prioritize and provide a time frame for preparation of codes of practice for air and sewer discharges from educational institutions and laboratories.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION:

At the regular Council Meeting on 1992 October 19, correspondence was received from Mr. Steve Mancinelli on behalf of the Burnaby Mountain Preservation Society requesting the status on various environmentally related concerns brought forth by their Society regarding Simon Fraser University.

The following report only addresses specific concerns noted in the correspondence which relate to air emissions, chemical and waste water discharges from the laboratories at Simon Fraser University.

2.0 DISCHARGES FROM SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY:

Discussions with the officials of the G.V.R.D. and Simon Fraser University has revealed the following:

2.1 Discharges To Sanitary Sewer

According to the S.F.U. officials, chemicals used in their laboratories are managed as follows:

The waste organic chemicals are collected and recycled or incinerated at the U.B.C. facilities depending on the type of chemical. All waste water from the laboratories percolates through a layer of marble chips in two acid neutralizing pits located on the south side of the S.F.U. Quadrangle prior to discharging into the sanitary sewer.

The G.V.R.D. Bylaw No. 164 regulates the discharge of non-domestic waste into the sanitary sewer system. As such, a Waste Discharge Permit is required to discharge the non-domestic waste to sewer if the volume of waste discharged is in excess of 300 m³ over any consecutive 30 day period, or if there is a potential to discharge restricted waste as defined in Schedule B of the subject Bylaw.

Presently, sanitary sewer discharges from Simon Fraser University are not monitored or permitted by the regional district staff pursuant to the G.V.R.D. Bylaw No. 164. However, a Code of Practice is being developed by the G.V.R.D. for management of laboratory wastes in the near future.

Communications with Mr. Mancinelli and review of the photographs attached to the correspondence indicate that the rust discolouration of the water in Naheeno Park is most likely due to the action of naturally occurring iron-fixing bacteria. Mr. Mancinelli advised staff that the discolouration was no longer evident and the samples were therefore not collected. However, staff have indicated their appreciation to Mr. Mancinelli for obtaining samples upon further evidence of any discolouration in the future.

2.2 Discharges to Atmosphere

Recently enacted G.V.R.D. Air Quality Management Bylaw No. 725 does not require that a permit be obtained for discharge of less than 5 kilograms per day of each of the following; nitrogen oxide, sulphur oxide, hydrocarbons and other organic compounds, and particulates. Carbon monoxide emissions are exempt from permitting if they total less than 100 kilograms per day.

The G.V.R.D. officials have indicated that the laboratories at Simon Fraser University are teaching and research oriented, not production oriented as commercial or industrial facilities. Therefore, the amounts of chemicals used would be restricted to that needed for experiments. In addition, the G.V.R.D.'s previous experience has indicated that sources of this type would not emit more than 5 kilograms per day of contaminants and therefore would not require a permit for air emissions. However, the Code of Practice is also being developed regarding air emissions in the near future and thereby allowing a greater degree of control over small discharges of this type.


3.0 CONCLUSION:

In response to Mr. Mancinelli's correspondence to Council, in particular to waste water and air emission management from Simon Fraser University, Environmental Health Services staff discussed these issues with both the G.V.R.D. and Simon Fraser University officials. According to the regional district staff, the waste water being discharged to the sanitary sewer and the air emissions currently do not require a permit. However, Codes of Practice are being developed in the near future for the above noted discharges. Staff recommend that the G.V.R.D. prioritize and provide a time frame for preparation of the above codes.

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Communications with Mr. Mancinelli and review of the photographs attached to the correspondence indicate that the rust discolouration of water in Naheeno Park is most likely due to the action of naturally occurring iron-fixing bacteria. Mr. Mancinelli advised staff that the discolouration was no longer evident and samples were therefore not collected for analysis and confirmation. However, staff have indicated their appreciation to Mr. Mancinelli for obtaining samples upon further evidence of any discolouration in the future.


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

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cc: Medical Health Officer
Director Administrative &
Community Services