

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: WASTE REDUCTION COMMISSION
REPORT ON HOUSEHOLD HAZARDOUS WASTE

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. THAT Council support in principle the issues, and concerns on Household Hazardous Waste and Household Hazardous Products detailed in this report.
2. THAT Council express its concern to the Minister of Environmental Lands and Parks for the need for the continued delivery of the existing Household Hazardous Waste collection and disposal program, until such time as an alternate program is in place, and provide the Minister with a copy of the original brief presented by Burnaby to the Waste Reduction Commissioner.
3. THAT copies of this report be forwarded to the GVRD and the Solid Waste Management Plan Review office, and the Province's Waste Reduction Commissioner.

R E P O R T

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting of 1994 March 08, received and adopted the attached staff report providing information for a preliminary response on Household Hazardous Waste.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor Drummond
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Member

<p>- CITY MANAGER - DIRECTOR ADMIN. & COMM. SERVICES - DIRECTOR ENGINEERING - DIRECTOR REC. & CULTURAL SERVICES - MEDICAL HEALTH OFFICER - CHIEF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH OFFICER</p>

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

TO: CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS,
ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT
COMMITTEE

DATE: 1994 01 28

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 65-01-02

PURPOSE: To provide the Environment and Waste Management Committee information for a preliminary response on Household Hazardous Waste.

SUBJECT: Waste Reduction Commission Report on Household Hazardous Waste

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** the Environment and Waste Management Committee recommend to Council that:
 - a) Council support in principle the issues, and concerns on Household Hazardous Waste and Household Hazardous Products detailed in this report.
 - b) Council express its concern to the Minister of Environment Lands and Parks for the need for the continued delivery of the existing Household Hazardous Waste collection and disposal program, until such time as an alternate program is in place, and provide the Minister with a copy of the original brief presented by Burnaby to the Waste Reduction Commissioner.
 - c) Copies of this report be forwarded to the GVRD and the Solid Waste Management Plan Review office, and the Province's Waste Reduction Commissioner.

REPORT

1. BACKGROUND

At its Regular meeting of 1993 July 12 Council approved a report on the "Response on Household Hazardous Waste Reduction Commission" submitted by the Environment and Waste Management Committee.

Recommendations included that "Council support in principle the issues, concerns and preferred actions on Household Hazardous Waste detailed in this report, and forward the report as a brief to the Waste Reduction Commissioner".

In its conclusions, it was noted that "The public has shown the need for provision of an ongoing and sustainable HHW collection system as expeditiously as possible" and the report was submitted as a brief to the Commissioner.

The following issues (presented in summary form) were sent back to the Commissioner.

"A - Comprehensive Plan

- i) A comprehensive program is required that addresses hazardous waste from all sources: that is, the home, business and industry. Initial planning should address HHW not as a separate item, but as part of the whole to establish priorities.*
- ii) Information requirements must be met before a plan or program can be developed.*

B - Management Principles

- i) Any plan should provide long term disposal opportunities for all hazardous waste in an environmentally acceptable manner and for the lowest cost. Provision of Provincial disposal facilities or protocols is paramount to the success of a plan.*
- ii) Any plan developed should, as much as possible, place the cost of disposal on the waste generators. It should place appropriate product stewardship options of taxation, product refund/deposit, and industry levels in the following stages of a product handling: Production, Marketing, Sales, Use, Disposal (Residual Management).*
- iii) Any plan developed should include legislation, enforcement requirements, and funding strategies for specific product groups.*

C - Education and Reduction

- i) Any plan developed should promote hazardous Waste Reduction of materials already in the waste stream.*
- ii) Any plan developed should include a comprehensive education program stressing Hazardous Waste Avoidance at source."*

2. DEVELOPMENTS

Since consulting British Columbians through a series of public, industry and stakeholder meetings, think tank sessions and forums meetings in 1993, the Waste Reduction Commissioner has prepared a report "Greener Homes - Cleaner Communities", which was delivered to the Honourable Moe Sihota, Minister of Environment, Lands and Parks on January 20, 1994.

The report outlines a strategy to reduce the amount of toxic material entering the waste stream. The strategy is presented in 19 recommendations and the Minister is taking these under advisement.

The report addresses two separate categories: Household Hazardous Wastes (HHW) such as leftover paint solvents and pesticides that can be returned, and Household Hazardous Products (HHP) such as toilet bowl cleaners, oven cleaners, and spot removers that are deposited down the drain or evaporated during their use and do not require a point of return.

HHW

"Product stewardship" is the driving force of the recommendations where producers, distributors, retailers and consumers take responsibility for the safe disposal of hazardous wastes. An Industry Funded and Operated (IFO) system is recommended for the material that can be returned to retailer or depot. This would include HHW such as partially used paint cans, solvents and pesticides. Retail outlets would accept left over paints and such for recycling and disposal.

The report envisages numerous collection points available in every region of the province, and would mark a change from the present system of 8 provincial government operated HHW depots which the report estimated collect only up to 8 percent of the household hazardous waste generated in B.C. The report estimates that fully 80% of the HHW stream could be included in an IFO system within 3 years.

HHP

The report further recommends that HHP such as cleansers, bleach, laundry stain removers that cannot be returned to retailer or depot be tested for the amount of toxic ingredients and classified into three categories of toxicity. These products would then be labelled appropriately so as to let the consumer (as user) make informed decisions about their purchase and disposal cost.

3. THE PROCESS TO AN ALTERNATE SYSTEM

The report presents 6 recommendations on HHW that are envisaged to outline a sequential transition from the present system of 8 depots throughout the province to a broader, more effective system that would shift the burden of hazardous waste management away from where it now lies (with the government and the taxpayer) to the producers and users of hazardous products. The shift would create a "polluter pay" system that promotes the 3 R's, while it breaks the cycle of dependence on disposal (ie: the 4th R, "residual management"), and imposes accountability on the industries that produce the products and the consumers who buy them.

While the report recognizes interim measures are required at the current HHW depots, staff consider that the Commission's first recommendation to eliminate funding the operation of the existing 8 depots beyond June 1994 is overly optimistic in its assumptions for the implementation of a replacement system. In fact, staff have not been able to confirm with the Ministry that

funding for the existing depots exists beyond March 1994.

Dates listed on information signs at our Still Creek Recycling Depot, which direct the public to the only facility in the Lower Mainland (in Surrey), are currently limited to February 27 and 28, and March 27 and 28. Hours of operation for all dates is from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

4. FURTHER COMMENTS

The commission has presented a comprehensive list of recommendations, many of which are sweeping, that reflect a wide spectrum of consultation, and would require some time to implement if they are supported. Staff will review the 19 recommendations in detail and report back to the committee at such time as the Ministry has made initial comment on the report and there is indication of the extent to which the recommendations will be supported.

Staff will maintain communication with both the Ministry and the Commission.

5. CONCLUSION

The Waste Reduction Commission has presented a comprehensive report that has caught the attention of the media and environmental groups as well as distributors. While it recognizes that a sequential transition from the present system to a new IFO system is required, funding for the extension of the current 8 HHW depots in the Province beyond mid 1994 should be reconsidered.

While the current system is not adequate to deal with all of the HHW in the region, it is nonetheless the only system, and as such it is recommended that concern for the need of its continued operation be conveyed to the Provincial Government.


DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

RGB:md

cc: Director Admin. and Community Services
Chief Environmental Health Officer

