

CITY OF BURNABY

ENVIRONMENT AND WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

HIS WORSHIP, THE MAYOR
AND COUNCILLORS

RE: METALS IN AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZERS

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. *THAT* Council receive this report for information.
2. *THAT* a copy of this report be forwarded to UBC/Westwater Research Unit.

REPORT

The Environment and Waste Management Committee, at its meeting held on 1998 February 24, adopted the *attached* report outlining regulations governing importation of agricultural fertilizers into Canada. The Committee advised that the Federal Fertilizers Act and Regulations ensure that any agricultural fertilizer containing pesticides and or metals being imported into Canada is registered and meets the allowable pesticide and metal limits.

Arising from discussion the Committee requested that a copy of this report be forwarded to the UBC/Westwater Research Unit for information purposes.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor L. Rankin
Chair

Councillor D. Johnston
Member

Councillor D. Lawson
Member

: COPY - CITY MANAGER
- DIRECTOR ENGINEERING
- DIR. PLNG. & BLDG.

TO: CHAIRPERSON & MEMBERS
ENVIRONMENT & WASTE
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

DATE: 1998 02 18

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE:

SUBJECT: METALS IN AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZERS

PURPOSE: To provide information to the Committee on the regulations governing importation of agricultural fertilizers into Canada.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. THAT this report be received for information purposes.

REPORT

1.0 INTRODUCTION

At the Environment and Waste Management Committee Meeting on 1997 November 18, the Committee discussed the subject of farm lands near Spokane, Washington which have been contaminated by application of agricultural fertilizers containing metals. Subsequent to the discussion, staff were requested to review the matter and respond on importation of these fertilizers into Canada.

**2.0 REGULATIONS GOVERNING IMPORTATION OF
AGRICULTURAL FERTILIZERS INTO CANADA**

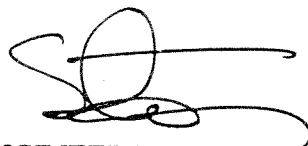
According to staff discussion with Agriculture Canada, importation of agricultural fertilizers into Canada is governed by the Federal Fertilizers Act and Regulations. In 1979, under the authority of the Fertilizers Act and Regulations, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada introduced a series of standards for metals in fertilizers and supplements. These standards, which are based on total, acceptable, cumulative metal addition limits for soils, have been used to evaluate and manage all products regulated under the Fertilizers Act and for which metal concerns have been raised such as organic fertilizers, phosphate rich fertilizers etc.

As such, importation of any agricultural fertilizers containing pesticides and/or heavy metals into Canada, would require full compliance with the Canadian regulations and registration. One of the requirements for product registration is that it be tested to ensure that it meets the allowable pesticide and metal concentration limits. It is to be noted that in past, there was no Federal law in the United States which required the listing of metals as ingredients in agricultural fertilizers. Until recently, the State Department of Agriculture tested fertilizers only to see if the product contained advertised levels of beneficial substances.

3.0 CONCLUSION

There is an increasing interest in the recycling of by-products and waste materials for land applications as fertilizers and supplements. The obvious benefits from the practice include the return of a number of nutrients to soil and the improvement of soil physical conditions. The benefits associated with the recycling of these materials must be balanced, however, against potential hazards which the materials also present.

To this end, the Federal Fertilizers Act and Regulations ensure that any agricultural fertilizer containing pesticides and or metals being imported into Canada is registered and meets the allowable pesticide and metal limits.

W.C. S. 
DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

DD:

cc: City Manager

