

TO: CITY MANAGER

DATE: 2002 01 29

FROM: DIRECTOR ENGINEERING

FILE: 10-08-11 (01)

SUBJECT: CHEVRON CANADA REFINERY LIMITED

PURPOSE: To inform Council on the status of Chevron Canada Limited application filed with the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection to discharge groundwater from Chevron Refinery Areas 1 and 2 to Burrard Inlet (Permit #PE-4970, File #AE-17046 (DIR)).

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **THAT** this report be received for information purposes.

R E P O R T

1.0 INTRODUCTION

On January 25, 2002, a Community Forum was held at McGill library on environmental and public safety issues concerning the Chevron Refinery. Representatives from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Chevron and UBC were present to provide information on the subject matter. At the meeting, questions were raised by the public pertaining to the application by Chevron for discharge of treated groundwater to Burrard Inlet and the Public Health Risk Assessment study. Staff will be preparing a report to Council in the near future summarizing the key findings and conclusions of this health study together with the other recently completed environmental and safety audits. The purpose of this report is to provide Council with the background information and update on the application by Chevron for discharge of treated groundwater to the Inlet.

2.0 DISCUSSION

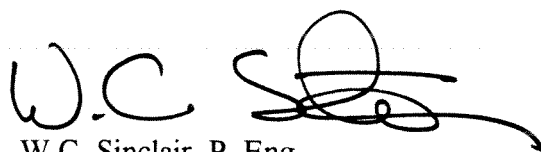
Chevron has an existing permit (PE-4970) from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection for disposing treated effluent from both Areas 1 and 2. The permit includes a discharge parameter for Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE) for Area 1 with a maximum allowable MTBE discharge in the treated effluent of 2.5 milligrams / L. However, MTBE is not identified as a discharge parameter under the current permit for Area 2.

Through the recent groundwater studies conducted by Golder Associates and Seacor Environmental, MTBE was identified in the ground water sampling within Area 2 and Chevron has since developed a groundwater treatment program to address the issue. On December 03, 2001, the City received a referral from the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection (MWLAP) regarding an application filed by Chevron Canada Limited. The application is seeking temporary approval to discharge groundwater from Chevron Refinery Areas 1 and 2 to Burrard Inlet. The application is proposing a discharge limit of 4.4 milligrams / L of MTBE to Burrard Inlet.

The City, in reviewing the application, forwarded the following comments to the MWLAP on December 12, 2001.

- ▶ Recommend specific time lines be set on the duration of discharge if approval is granted by the Ministry. Furthermore, any request for renewal to the approved time lines be referred to the City for comments;
- ▶ Request receipt of calculations relating to total loadings of MTBE to the Inlet and the potential resultant impacts, if any, to downstream marine life over the duration of the discharge;
- ▶ Acceptance of the proposed MTBE discharge limits to Burrard Inlet by the Vancouver Port Authorities (VPA) given their recent broader mandate in regulating discharges to the Inlet;
- ▶ Request for details on treatment technology and treatment extraction efficiency; and
- ▶ Clarification on current and proposed discharge volumes.

The City is awaiting for a formal response to the above comments from the Ministry. At the time of preparing this report, staff from the Ministry could not confirm as to when they will render a decision on the application. Staff have requested that the Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection consider the comments submitted by the City on the proposed permit application before a decision is made. Staff will monitor this issue closely and report back to Council once the decision is rendered by MWLAP.


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cc: Director Planning and Building