



CITY OF RICHMOND

REPORT TO COMMITTEE

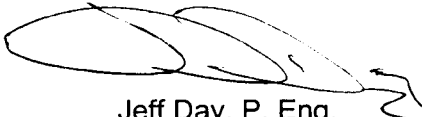
TO: Public Works and Transportation Committee
FROM: Jeff Day, P. Eng.
Director, Engineering
RE: Vancouver Port Authority - Proposed Outfalls Policy

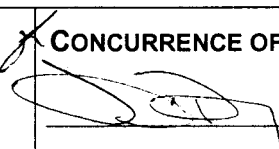
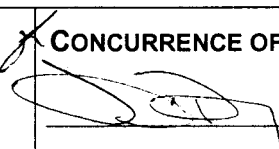
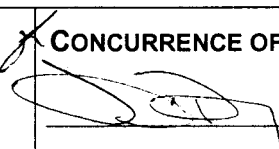
To PWS&T - Jan. 17/01
DATE: December 28, 2000
FILE: 6400-09-01

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that:

1. The Vancouver Port Authority Board be put on notice that the City of Richmond supports the Greater Vancouver Regional District and its member municipalities and is not in support of the prescriptive nature of the Vancouver Port Authority Outfalls Policy; and
2. The Vancouver Port Authority be requested to work in closer concert with the Greater Vancouver Regional District and its member municipalities to align its policy with the region's Liquid Waste Management Plan; and
3. The Vancouver Port Authority be made aware of the City's concerns.


Jeff Day, P. Eng.
Director, Engineering

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STAFF REPORT

ORIGIN

It has recently come to staff's attention via the Greater Vancouver Regional District (GVRD), that the Vancouver Port Authority (VPA), re-drafted their Outfalls Policy and brought it forward for their Board's adoption on December 12, 2000.

The GVRD and its member municipalities have not had sufficient time to review this re-draft. Upon cursory inspection, there is strong disagreement with the proposed approach of VPA, which continues to be "prescriptive", by applying water quality standards to end of pipe discharges. This approach is contrary to the environmental monitoring program outlined in the recently approved Stage II of the Region's Liquid Waste Management Plan. Furthermore, VPA policy indicates that they will be charging a fee for rainfall runoff based on volume which is highly objectionable to those affected municipalities.

This issue first surfaced back in June of this year. As the result of letters from the GVRD Chair and Mayors of the member municipalities (including Richmond), requesting consultation with the GVRD and a deferment on the policy adoption, the VPA Board agreed to a six month deferral.

The six months have elapsed and once again, the GVRD has requested the VPA Board to defer their adoption of the Outfalls Policy in order to allow more time for the differences to be resolved.

FINDINGS OF FACT

GVRD staff confirm that the VPA Board, on December 12, 2000, granted conditional approval of the Outfalls Policy subject to:

1. VPA staff working to resolve the differences with the GVRD through the Fraser River Estuary Management Program (FREMP) and Burrard Inlet Environmental Action Program (BIEAP) forum.
2. VPA staff reporting back to the VPA Board in July 2001 on its progress or lack thereof.

ANALYSIS

It is imperative that the VPA Outfalls Policy align with the Region's Liquid Waste Management Plan. Staff and the GVRD would like to see consistency in upholding the principles of using scientific rationale, environmental monitoring and assessment, in the determination of action plans, not a prescriptive approach.

The prescriptive approach of the VPA's Outfall Policy threatens the progress that the region has made to date in the development of the Liquid Waste Management Plan. It may also jeopardize the Province's approval of the Stage III (final stage) – Liquid Waste Management Plan.

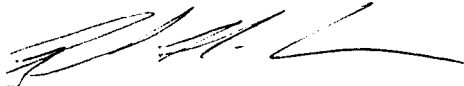
FINANCIAL IMPACT

None at this time.

CONCLUSION

The revised policy continues to be prescriptive, by applying quality standards to end of pipe discharges. This approach is contrary to the environmental monitoring program outlined in the recently approved Stage II of the Region's Liquid Waste Management Plan and jeopardizes the Province's approval of Stage III. Furthermore, VPA policy indicates that they will be charging a fee for rainfall runoff based on volume which is highly objectionable to those affected municipalities.

The City can support the GVRD and those municipalities that will be directly affected by the proposed Outfalls Policy by putting the Port Authority Board on notice that the City of Richmond is not in support of the prescriptive nature of the VPA Outfalls Policy and that the VPA work in closer concert with the GVRD and its member municipalities to align its policy with the region's Liquid Waste Management Plan.



Paul H. Lee, P.Eng.
Manager, Engineering Planning

PHL:phl