

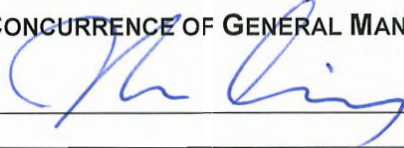




To: Public Works and Transportation Committee **Date:** August 28, 2018
From: Peter Russell, MCIP, RPP **File:** 10-6000-00/Vol 01
Senior Manager, Sustainability and District Energy
Re: **City of Richmond’s Response to the Canadian National Railway Company’s Development of a Five Year Pest Management Plan**

Staff Recommendation

That the City’s feedback on the Canadian National Railway Company (CN) proposed Five Year Pest Management, outlined in the report titled “City of Richmond’s Response to the Canadian National Railway Company’s Development of a Five Year Pest Management Plan” from the Senior Manager, Sustainability and District Energy dated August 28th, 2018, be endorsed and sent to CN as part of their 5 year Pest Management Plan.

Peter Russell
Senior Manager, Sustainability and District Energy
(604-276-4130)

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| REPORT CONCURRENCE | |
| CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER  | |
| REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE | INITIALS:  |
| APPROVED BY CAO  | |

Staff Report

Origin

Canadian National Railway Company (CN) placed an advertisement in the Vancouver Sun on July 13, 2018 that invited comments on their pest management activities, including pesticides and application methods proposed under their proposed five year Pest Management Plan (PMP). Following the publication, staff reviewed CN's PMP and held a teleconference with two CN representatives to discuss concerns within the plan. CN requested that the City draft a formal letter of comments as a record of the City's input to the draft PMP.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #1 A Safe Community:

Maintain emphasis on community safety to ensure Richmond continues to be a safe community.

1.4. Effective interagency relationships and partnerships.

This report supports Council's 2014-2018 Term Goal #4 Leadership in Sustainability:

Continue advancement of the City's sustainability framework and initiatives to improve the short and long term livability of our City, and that maintain Richmond's position as a leader in sustainable programs, practices and innovations.

4.1 Continued implementation of the sustainability framework

Background

Council adopted the *Enhanced Pesticide Management Program* (EPMP) in 2009 and is dedicated to the judicious use of pesticides. Under the *Pesticide Use Control Bylaw No. 8514*, the City has restricted the use of traditional pesticides for cosmetic purposes on City and residential properties. For the management of noxious weeds, the City employs an integrated pest management approach and uses selective application when other management options are deemed inadequate.

Provincially designated noxious weeds listed under the provincial *Weed Control Act* as well as species identified under the *Early Detection, Rapid Response Plan* can impact infrastructure, biodiversity and human health and safety. The CN railway poses a risk as a vector for the spread and introduction of new invasive species in Richmond. Common reed and yellow nutsedge, two *Early Detection, Rapid Response* species located on CN property, are currently being managed by the Provincial government. Additionally, significant knotweed infestations have been reported by the City to CN with no operational response to date.

Pursuant to the Community Charter, Spheres of Concurrent Jurisdiction – Environment and Wildlife Regulation, the City may not regulate, prohibit or impose requirements on the application of pesticides on land used for transportation. As such, the City has engaged CN to work with the City to apply best management practices (BMPs) in Richmond.

Analysis

CN has created a proposed PMP for the management of vegetation within property owned or operated by CN including track ballasts, right-of-ways (ROW) and station grounds. The plan covers all CN lands from Northeastern BC to the Greater Vancouver area. The City has reviewed the PMP and identified concerns regarding the lack of information provided in the document. The PMP is vague on noxious/invasive species management and does not contain strategies for treating persistent, rapidly spreading, noxious weeds such as hogweed and knotweed. Staff have reviewed the plan and note that it should be revised to include the following:

- Detailed procedures for noxious weed treatment recordkeeping including vegetation maps, documentation of known sites, and a publicly available inventory of treatment sites;
- BMPs should include the use of broadcast spraying of pesticides only when all other treatment options have been considered. Broadcast spraying of ballasts can result in a 16 ft wide swath of pesticide applications;
- Qualifications and training programs for personnel responsible for weed identification, site selections, and pesticide application; and
- Communication strategies for planned treatment programs, including notifications to local governments, and sites adjacent to treated areas.

The PMP should be revised to reflect CN's responsibility to control the spread of weeds designated as noxious (as per provincial Weed Control Act) and not only when weeds conflict with CN operations.

The City recently had a meeting with CN personnel where it was identified that CN does not have a dedicated budget or staff personnel for the management of noxious weeds, and depends on community information to identify areas of concern. Additionally, CN does not operate or populate a database to identify and/or track noxious weeds. Lastly, supervisors who inspect vegetation are not trained in the identification of noxious weeds. The City is requesting that CN appropriately resource their PMP with staff and qualified environmental professionals to ensure BMPs are practiced. The City offered solutions for applying an integrated pest management approach that should be considered and proposed meeting in the future to establish a more effective working relationship with CN.

With the support of the staff recommendation, staff will provide the above feedback to CN as part of their proposed 5 year PMP.

Financial Impact

None.

August 28, 2018

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Conclusion

This report provides an overview of the City's comments on CN's 5 year PMP.



Chad Paulin
Manager, Environment
(604-247-4672)