

**Subject: FW: Notice of Motion:**

**Date:** Tue, 21 Oct 2003 08:08:19 -0700

**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>

**To:** "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Ernie Crist

> Sent: October 20, 2003 5:33 PM

> To: Nathalie Valdes

> Subject: Notice of Motion:

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> NEW - CORRECTED AND REVISED.

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> Notice of Motion - Report Councillor Crist;

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> That Council go on record as supporting the initiative of the Honorable David Anderson, Minister of the Environment, regarding the proposed risk management strategy addressing ammonia, inorganic chloramines and chlorinated wastewater effluents, as outlined in the Environment Canada's Plans for "CEPA Toxic" Substances, plans which see these toxic substances being removed from liquid effluents before being emptied into Canada's Streams, Rivers, Lakes and Oceans.

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> And further that this position be conveyed to the Honorable David Anderson as well as to all members of the GVRD and further

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> that Mayor Bell be requested to vote in favor this ( N.V. District) resolution and against the GVRD policy which, as of this moment, has "CONCERNS" re the Minister's endeavor.

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> Rationale:

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> In all developed countries but Canada and the USA liquid effluents are subjected to tertiary treatment before returned to the streams, rivers and oceans. Tertiary treatment is the stage in the treatment of water effluent which removes the most harmful toxic substances including ammonia, inorganic chloramines, nonylphenols and textile mill effluents, all of which are extremely harmful to all marine life including fish. In British Columbia we are still working on the primary treatment. Primary treatment is nothing more than the removal of solids more or less from liquid waste except that in some cases where primary treatment is absent not even that is the case.

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> The harmful effects of the substances targeted for treatment by the Minister have been outlined repeatedly in numerous studies including in the Fraser River Basin Water Restoration Plan and need no further comments from anyone with even a remote understanding as to what is at stake.

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> These toxins cause cancer in marine life and if ingested, in turn, cause cancer and other serious ailments in humans. The environmental damage as a result of ammonia and the other toxins identified in the initiative by the Minister are overwhelming.

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> Between August and November of 2002 Environment Canada held a series of consultation sessions across Canada on their proposed management strategy addressing ammonia, inorganic chloramines and chlorinated effluents. GVRD staff attended the session held in Burnaby on October 25, 2002.

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> Environment Canada published a summary of their consultation sessions. However, the GVRD has expressed concerns about this step which it wishes to convey to the Minister on behalf of the Lower Mainland Municipalities.

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> Subsequently at its February 2003 meeting the Greater Vancouver Sewerage and Drainage District Board adopted the following resolution;

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> "That the GVS&DD board authorize the Board Chair to meet with the federal Minister of Environment Canada and the environmental Minister of Water, Land and Air Protection to

convey the position of the District regarding Municipal concerns about proposed management plans for substances listed under the federal Canadian Environmental Protection Act".

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> "The concerns relate to setting risk management objectives based on arbitrary or artificial numbers that are end-of-pipe based and that do not consider important factors such as local conditions, mixing zone, and the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment. The concerns also include the potentially high cost to build ammonia reduction facilities (i.e. approximately \$ 110 million) even if there are no environmental benefits to be gained and result in the potential diversion of funds from more important environmental priorities".

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> The GVRD also maintains that "the Lulu Island and Annacis Island treatment systems effluent is discharged to deep marine waters through diffuser systems where the depth of water is greater than the diameter of the diffuser ports and that the ammonia levels from the tests done on combined sewer discharges indicate that they do not exceed 16mg/L and further that the Northwest Langley effluent has very low levels of ammonia between the months of June to September". (And that in any case there is an underwater sign telling fish to stay out) my comments. The GVRD stance in light of the demonstrated damage to human health through the discharge of toxic substances into the water eco system is curious to say the least. This is especially so in light of the Fraser River Basin rehabilitation findings.

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> It behooves Council to stand up and support the Minister on this issue which has been resolved in the rest of the developed world decades ago. The health risks of allowing ammonia and other toxic substances into the water eco system have been known to the GVRD for more than twenty years when a GVRD delegation was sent to Europe to participate in an International Waste Conference in Berlin Germany.


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> But when this matter was raised by persons who participated in this GVRD trip to Europe, the GVRD leadership denied any and all evidence presented to that effect, much less implement any meaningful action. When District Councillor Crist who had been part of this delegation, brought the matter to the attention of his own District Council, his repeated efforts to debate this matter in Council failed for lack of a seconder to his motions with the result that the District, instead of providing leadership, became part of the problem while the public was kept in the dark.

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> In light of the lack of responsible leadership by the GVRD Board and bureaucracy in the past plus its present "concerns" as expressed by GVRD Vice Chair Mayor Don Bell, it behooves District Council to make a clear statement of support for the Minister's efforts.

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> Ernie Crist

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