

Subject: A motion to support the efforts of the Honorable David Anderson, Minister of Environment to remove harmful toxins from Canada's water systems..

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From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <Cagebc@yahoo.com>, "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST;

In response to an initiative by 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, which see these toxic substances being removed from liquid effluents before being emptied into Canada's streams, rivers, lakes and oceans, I submitted a motion in writing to District Council that

- 1) Council go on record as supporting the initiative by the Minister and that,
- 2) this position be conveyed to the Honorable David Anderson, as well as to all members of the GVRD; and that
- 3) Mayor Bell in his capacity as GVRD Vice Chair, be requested to vote in favor of this resolution and against the GVRD policy which, as of this moment has "CONCERNS" regarding the Minister's endeavors.

In my reasons for this resolution I provided the following background information.

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 marine life, including fish. In British Columbia we are still in the primary treatment stage which is nothing more than the removal of solids, more or less, from liquid waste, except that, in some cases, not even this is done.

The harmful effects of substances targeted for treatment by the Minister have been outlined repeatedly in numerous studies, including in the Fraser River Basin Water Restoration Plan. These toxins cause cancer in marine life and, if ingested, in turn cause cancer and other serious ailments in humans. Canada is as yet the only developed country where water effluents are still at the primary stage. The environmental damage, a result of ammonia and the other toxins identified in the initiative by the Minister, are overwhelming.

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.

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".

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 zones, and the assimilative capacity of the receiving environment".

The GVRD also maintains that, "the LULU Island and ANNACIS Island treatment systems effluent discharged to deep marine waters through diffuser systems where the depth of water is greater than the diameter of the diffuser port and that the ammonia levels from the tests done on combined water 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 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.

The health risks of allowing ammonia and other toxins 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.

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 implemented any meaningful action. When as a member of this delegation, I brought the mater to the attention of District Council, my efforts failed.

The motion above, was the latest in this effort. Council including Mayor Bell, Councillor Janice Harris, Alan Nixon, Lisa Muri, Maureen McKeon Holmes and Richard Walton voted against the motion.

Ernie Crist, Councillor,
District of North Vancouver,

Dcc community list 2
bcc community list 3

