

Subject: FW: Killer Dust

Date: Sat, 9 Jul 2005 19:02:16 -0700

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

To: "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James_Ridge@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>

From: Ernie Crist
Sent: Saturday, July 09, 2005 6:55 PM
To: ''
Subject: RE: Killer Dust

Dear Mr.

To tell you the truth, Mr, the information coming in from all over the world, (the conscious world that is) is heavily pointing against the use of pesticides and it is coming in hard and fast.

The reason why we are getting into the act is precisely because the Federal and the Provincial governments are to all intents and purpose useless. When it comes to protecting the environment, they could not fight their way out of a paper bag never mind pesticide pollution. Suffice it to say that they cannot even enforce their own rules when it comes to development adjacent to fish bearing rivers.

Also, did you know that Canada still allows the dumping of raw sewage into the oceans, rivers and lakes. And this at a time when we ask our children to collect money to save our salmon. Talk about being backward, hypocritical and just out and out dumb. I tell you, Mr. Pownal, when it comes to our environment our senior governments frightens me almost as much as Al-Qaeda. Can you imagine Mr. our own MP Don Bell fighting for the environment in Ottawa? If you can, than you have a greater imagination than I have and I have known the man for 40 or more years.

As to your question, why do we get involved at the global level rather than the local level? That is because the globe starts in our backyard - that is where it is all happening. This is another way of saying, if we cannot solve our problems in the District of North Vancouver were we live, we will have one heck of a time convincing the Africans to protect their environment, by way of example, which is what we are doing with taxpayers money by the way. This is another way of saying what is local is global and what is global is local.

However, I am still reading all kinds of material on the matter and will give you my decision on the matter this coming Monday.

Have a nice weekend and don't worry about science and the corporations it serves not being up to producing harmless antidotes to pests and produce nice lawns. I can assure you they most definitely will, we just have to encourage them a little bit.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

From:
Sent: Saturday, July 09, 2005 5:04 PM
To: Ernie Crist
Subject: Re: Killer Dust

Does the District of North Vancouver have science which supports a ban on pesticides within the District? Is the District willing to publicise the science in the North Shore News And the Outlook Newspapers prior to Council making a final decision? Will the District Parks Department all public and private golf facilities be ordered to stop using pesticides? Will fruit and vegetable growers, nurseries be forced to comply? What about the homeowner who grows grapes to make wine? Do not worry about dust originating from North Vancouver and adding to any global problem. Perhaps the District should stick with issues that deal with municipal considerations not global ones. Council may be the beneficiary of efficiencies in operations if they narrowed their scope.

Yours Truly

Saturday, July 09, 2005 3:03 PM

Subject: FW: Killer Dust

A MESSAGE FROM ERNIE CRIST - PESTICIDES ARE PART OF THE PROBLEM.

The latest edition of Discover (Science) Magazine deals extensively with a phenomena which is overtaking the planet with staggering consequences.

The story headed "Killer Dust" confirms that every year gigantic particle storms sweep across the oceans, dumping viruses, acids, pesticides, heavy metals, and even grasshoppers on the United States and not only on the United States.

Worldwide deforestation, mining, overgrazing, and the diversion of water have combined to create huge dust clouds that carry bacteria, viruses, soot, acids, radio active isotopes, and pesticides around the world. A massive dust cloud from the Asian continent passed over Japan in 2002, travelling a man made dust byway that runs east. Uneven heating of the ground and air generate turbulent airflows that keep sediments aloft.

A moderately wimpy, sustained wind with turbulent gusts will be enough to lift particles into the Atmosphere says meteorologist Tom Warner of the National Center of Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado.

Although Dust storms start out gritty, coarse sediments like sand soon fall out, leaving finer silts and clays to rise up to 15,000 feet and travel thousands of miles. An Asian Dust storm that swept over the West Coast of the united States in April 2001 spread to Cape Cod and eventually reached Europe. In Japan the seasonal dust cloud from China is called yellow because of its color, carrying pollutants, including heavy metals, that attach to airborne sediments. Roughly half

the mercury contamination in the United States comes from this source; much of it may arrive aboard particles in atmospheric dust clouds.

Dust from the Mojave Desert contains an array of mineral grains, as well as diatom, a single - celled aquatic organisms commonly carried by dust. African dust collected in Barbados carries an unidentified fungus. More than one hundred species of bacteria, viruses, and fungi have been cultured from airborne dust. Roughly one third of the bacteria are pathogens that can cause diseases in plants, animals and people. These include pseudomonades, which give rise to ear and skin infections in humans, and the microbes responsible for sugarcane rust, potato dry rot, and banana leaf spot.

Results from studies such as the international Aerosol Characterization Experiments, which examined the trajectory and mineral content of dust clouds crossing the Pacific in 2001, reveal that dust also carries pollution. African Dust that fell on the Azores in 2000 was enriched with Mercury, probably from open pit mines in Algeria.

Scientists are concerned that the hazards are intensifying. Some 3 billion metric tons of dust are lofted into Earth's atmosphere each year and that amount has climbed steadily for a decade, possibly owing to the increase in surface area now covered by deserts and dry lake beds.


Unless this trend is reversed the dust storms will only worsen. In some parts of the world dust storms have become five time more intensive than previously. Beginning in 1950, China planted 300 million trees in a belt south of the Gobi Desert to protect its provinces from the storms much as the Great Wall once stood against Mongolian Invaders. This seems to have helped lessen the siege of Beijing but has done little for Japan, Korea and the Untied States and the rest of the world that lies downwind.

Trees definitely lessen the impact of atmospheric pollution. Regions, such as the Lower Mainland could protect themselves by insuring that the total number of trees in the Region is maintained. This would mean implementing a Regional Air Pollution and Tree Inventory Protection Strategy. The cornerstone of such a strategy would be that, notwithstanding any other planning issue, the absolute number of trees in every municipality is not only maintained but, if possible,

increased. In the District of North Vancouver it would mean no development unless it guarantees that the total number of trees is maintained.

The urgency of changing direction is considerable since large parts of the world continue to be denuded including the Amazon Basin where 50 % of the Amazon Rain Forest will be removed. Liveability of cities will have to take on a new meaning. From now on it will mean no development if it results in the loss of the municipal tree inventory.

Ernie Crist

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