

Subject: [Fwd: Maplewood Acrid Odor]

Date: Sun, 14 Oct 2001 20:15:59 -0700

From: Brian Platts <brian_platts@telus.net>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: Re: Maplewood Acrid Odor

Date: Sun, 14 Oct 2001 19:49:39 -0700

From: "Dave Sadler" <davesadler@telus.net>

To: "Ernie Crist" <CristE@district.north-van.bc.ca>, <brian_platts@telus.net>

CC: "FONVCA" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "The Frasers" <weemalkies@telus.net>,

"Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>, "Dan Ellis" <ELLIS7880@home.com>

Twice over the last two years I have formally requested the GVRD to test the air quality on the Cut, which they refused to do. I believe a sign should be posted warning of the poor quality air & giving citizens the opportunity to bypass this stretch of road. In conversation with the GVRD official, I was surprised to learn the best recourse is to roll down the car windows rather than closing them, allowing the 'bad air' to dissipate more quickly. I believe such information should be conveyed to the public. Dave Sadler

----- Original Message -----

From: [Brian Platts](#)

To: [Ernie Crist](#)

Cc: ['Dan Ellis'](#) ; [Mayor and Council - DNV](#) ; [The Frasers](#) ; [Dave Sadler](#) ; [FONVCA](#)

Sent: Friday, October 12, 2001 4:09 PM

Subject: Re: Maplewood Acrid Odor

I'm often assailed by the same foul stench when driving up or down the cut. Opening the car windows only makes it worse. It would be interesting to pinpoint the source. It's hard to believe that there is not some environmental regulations being violated.

Brian Platts

Ernie Crist wrote:

A message from Ernie Crist: This is nothing new. Elise Roberts has on several occasions come before Council with complaints about excessive pollution and noxious odor and I have made several attempts to address this problem. All my efforts were nixed.I may try again. Ernie Crist -----Original Message-----

From: Dan Ellis [<mailto:ELLIS7880@home.com>]

Sent: Thursday, October 11, 2001 10:01 PM

To: Mayor and Council - DNV

Cc: The Frasers; Dave Sadler; FONVCA

Subject: Re: Maplewood Acrid Odour

Dear Mayor & Council: This Tuesday morning, while driving across the Second Narrows Bridge, I was assailed by a strong odour such as Dave describes. From my past operating experience in pulp mills, oil refineries, and natural gas distribution, I can advise you with some certainty that:

1. The odour I encountered was distinctly sulfur dioxide (SO₂), perhaps the substance most representative of the term "acidic."
Exposure to SO₂ can cause serious lung damage, in proportion to concentration and duration.
2. One possible source of such an odour at Maplewood / Second Narrows could be an oil refinery flare stack, used to safely dispose of dangerous compounds under emergency or upset conditions. The purification of hydrocarbons during refining can create quite potent streams of sulfurous by-products, which on occasion may need to be flared, thereby creating significant amounts of SO₂. It is worthy of note that when I smelled the definite SO₂ odour, I also observed an unusually large white steam / smoke cloud present above Burrard Inlet, both over and immediately north of the Chevron refinery.
3. Dave could have been smelling the Transfer Station. However, in my limited exposure to it, I have not found the odours inside to be acidic, although they most certainly smelled foul !

Recurrent SO2 would constitute a serious public health and safety problem. Furthermore, temperature inversions tend to trap such emissions near ground level in winter, aggravating any exposure risk. As our observations suggest a possible "repeating SO2 emission," and winter looms, immediate follow-up enquiries from CDNV on behalf of its citizens are indicated. If cooperation is not forthcoming, I'm sure GVRD would be most willing to assist. Refinery operators do keep logs of their operations. Sincerely, **Dan H. Ellis**, P.EngB.A.Sc. (Chemical)

----- Original Message -----

From: [Dave Sadler](#)

To: [Mayor and Council - DNV](#)

Cc: [FONVCA](#)

Sent: Monday, October 01, 2001 6:39 PM

Subject: Maplewood: Why wait for spring, DO IT NOW!

Dear Mayor & Council:

Oct.1 /01 **Foul Odours in**

Maplewood

While walking through the **Maplewood Bird Sanctuary** on

Sunday, my wife & I both noticed **acrid odours** coming from the direction of Maplewood. The odours were so strong, I could feel them biting the membranes of my nostrils. This was not the first time we have had this unpleasant experience. Why isn't the District doing something about this? In November '99, the Province ran an article entitled 'Residents breathing 'high-risk' N.Van air. The transfer station is sub-standard compared to other such facilities in the GVRD. Complaints have been made regarding the organic fertilizer plant. Although the District was supposed to address this issue under the 1991 Maplewood Local Plan, NOTHING is done! How some action Council in addressing this problem!!!I'm faxing you the Nov.15/99 article for your information. Yours truly Dave Sadler