Subject: [Fwd: Maplewood Acrid Odor]
Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2001 21:24:07 -0700
From: Brian Platts

Strian_platts@telus.net>
To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Subject: RE: Maplewood Acrid Odor Date: Fri, 12 Oct 2001 17:27:41 -0700

From: Don Bell < BellD@district.north-van.bc.ca>

To: "'brian_platts@telus.net'" <bri> clus.net>

CC: "'Dan Ellis'" <ELLIS7880@home.com>, Mayor and Council - DNV <Council@district.north-van.bc.ca>, The Frasers <weemalkies@telus.net>, Dave Sadler <davesadler@telus.net>, FONVCA <fonvca@fonvca.org>, Gord Howie <gord howie@district.north-van.bc.ca>

I am taking this opportunity to reply to e-mails I have received from Dave Sadler (Oct 1st), Dan Ellis (Oct 11th) and Brian Platts (Oct 12th) stating complaints about odour problems in the Maplewood area. I have also had similar complaints from a business in the Maplewood area and a complaint last month from a business on the west side of the Seymour River about a "foul fishy smell" that occasionally occurs in that area.

Last month and this month I visited the Maplewood and lower Lynnmour Industrial area several times in response to these concerns. I specifically visited the area under the Iron Workers 2nd Narrows Bridge where a fish reduction plant is located, and the North Shore GVRD Transfer Station and IBR (International Bio-Recovery) plant.

In speaking with some of the Maplewood area business owners they stated that odours do occur intermittently, but that there does not seem to be only one "smell", or only one source, and that the way the wind is blowing makes a difference. Sometimes they believe the odours may come from the refinery operations across the water, and other times from various sources in the Maplewood industrial area.

I have spoken with the GVRD and asked for comments about the NS Transfer Station and Mr. Sadler's contention that it is "substandard compared to other such facilities in the GVRD". I also visited the IBR plant, inside and outside, and was advised by President Frank Dixon that although their plant has a "negative atmosphere" to keep air and odours from escaping, they would look into the complaints and take appropriate action. I understand that a meeting between Scott Currie, IBR V.P. Operations & Engineering, and representatives from the Maplewood Community Assn (MCA) occurred last night (Oct11th). Scott advised me IBR will be working directly with the MCA to address their concerns.

I know that there could well be other sources of odours in this area and I expect that the GVRD and our municipal staff will pursue this matter.

With respect to Brian Platts complaint about the "foul stench" driving on the cut, I regularly experience a carbon-monoxide type of smell driving "up" the cut (never "down", at least so far). I spoke to my auto mechanic and he said that is a common complaint and is related to the car engine being under load and wind conditions while driving up hill. I also get the same experience in Mirta's car. I have assumed this was the source but I will try to see if this can be better clarified as to probable source.

I will advise you when I have more complete information.

Mayor Don Bell

----Original Message----

From: Brian Platts [mailto:brian platts@telus.net]

Sent: October 12, 2001 4:10 PM

To: Ernie Crist

Cc: 'Dan Ellis'; Mayor and Council - DNV; The Frasers; Dave Sadler; FONVCA

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

1 of 2

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 "acrid."

Exposure to SO2 can cause serious lung damage, in proportion to concentration and duration.

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.

Dave could have been smelling the Transfer Station. However, in my limited exposure to it, I have not found the odours inside

to be acrid, 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 **arid 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

2 of 2