



City of Surrey

Environmental Advisory Committee

Minutes

Executive Boardroom
City Hall
14245 - 56 Avenue
Surrey, B.C.
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2007
Time: 6:30 p.m.
File: 0540-20

Present:

Councillor Bose - Chair
C. Dragomir
M. Deo
G. Sangha
K. Keshvani
H. Locke
D. Maher
Dr. F. Perello
B. Stilwell

Absent:

B. Stewart
S. Li
C. Baron, Drainage & Environment
Manager

Staff Present:

L. Englund, Environmental Coordinator
L. Anderson, Legislative Services

Agricultural Advisory Committee **Representative**

S. VanKeulen

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Councillor Bose.

Councillor Bose acted as Chair for the meeting.

INTRODUCTIONS

There was a round table of introductions for the three new members appointed for the ensuing year.

ELECTIONS & APPOINTMENTS

The Chair deferred the elections and appointments to the February meeting in order to give the members an opportunity to acquaint themselves.

A. ADOPTION OF MINUTES

1. Environmental Advisory Committee ("EAC")- Minutes

It was noted that the Minutes for the December 6, 2006 meeting should be amended to reflect that S. VanKeulen was not present for that meeting.

It was

Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by H. Locke

That the minutes of the Environmental
Advisory Committee meeting of December 6, 2006 be adopted, as amended.

Carried

B. DELEGATIONS**1. Electromagnetic Fields**

File: 0540-20 EAC

R. McDougall, Senior Environmental Coordinator Transmission Engineering, BC Hydro and Gail Townsley, Manager Safety, British Columbia Transmission Corporation ("BCTC") provided an overview and a PowerPoint presentation on electromagnetic field energy. Members were given a hard copy of the presentation that outlines the sources of fields, where they come from, how they are measured, where the exposure is and what BC Hydro and BCTC are doing to respond to these issues.

S. VanKeulen joined the meeting at 6:42 p.m.

A third party independent source of material that provides questions and answers related to electric and magnetic fields associated with the use of electric power, prepared by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences and National Institutes of Health, dated June 2002, was provided as additional information to the members.

R. McDougall provided further comments as follows:

- In terms of the electrical system in BC, the footprint is very large; the land area is equivalent to that of the entire lower mainland.
- BCTC was created in 2003 to plan, manage and operate BC Hydro's transmission system independently from BC Hydro.
- BC Hydro continues to manage generation and distribution systems.
- BCTC and BC Hydro are in a unique position:
 - both customer and service provider to one another;
 - BCTC ultimately responsible for managing electric and magnetic field issues for transmission system but can ask BC Hydro to manage issues on their behalf.
- Transmission lines move the power in, out and around BC from the generating facility (e.g. dams) to communities; generally built overhead (the lines in downtown Vancouver are underground).
- The presence of lines in Surrey is significant occupying a large amount of the land base; 138 lines of which some service industrial facilities directly.
- Transmission range 69kV to 500 kV; distribution voltage of 25kV or 12kV.
- Substations convert current (e.g. high voltage/low ampere to low voltage/high ampere); Harvie Road substation converts transmission voltage from 69kV to distribution voltage at 25kV.
- The lines are generally at recreation fields, parks, rights of way, etc., with houses being outside and adjacent to rights of way.
- There are three transmission lines (two sets of 500kV lines that are three lines each and one set of 230kV lines) on one right of way at King George and 84 Avenue.
- Priority is always to public and worker safety first with the electric system being designed and built to meet or exceed electrical standards and codes.
- Electric and magnetic fields are present wherever electricity flows.

- Voltage (measured in volts) causes electric fields whether devices are turned on or off; the current associated with magnetic fields (measured in amps) is only present when the electrical device is turned on.
- BC Hydro/BCTC electricity is 60 cycles per second (HZ) which is at the extreme low end of the electromagnetic spectrum (ELF).
- Designed to carry a load that has been based on the ground to line distance
- Field decreases with distance - the stronger the current, the greater the field, so the further it goes, but both will decrease by distance.
- Exposure to magnetic fields is related to field strength and time spent in field.
- Exposure can be reduced in many cases by simply moving common sources a short distance away in rest or work areas.
- Ionizing radiation remains the only established environmental risk (x-rays, etc.)

Discussion ensued regarding the noise that can be heard from the power lines and the general perception and concern linked to magnetic field issues. Questions arose regarding various research that has been done and the inconsistent results that have been provided to the public.

The Chair asked if there was a table/chart that would advise what safe conditions are based on the number of hours of exposure or if there was something that shows the levels that are considered safe, in relation to the guidelines. It was noted that there are no magnetic field guidelines and standards, however greater and detailed information can be provided on BC Hydro's website at www.bchydro.com.

R. MacDougall concluded his presentation by advising the EAC that BC Hydro is committed to the safe use of electricity. They have been supportive of independent research on EMF in B.C., in Canada and abroad as part of an international effort to address possible health concerns. A "Magnetic Field Measurement Kit" is available for loan at some BC Hydro offices throughout the province. The kit includes a measurement machine, a video and several instruction booklets to assist with readings. The kit can be ordered by contacting Uhisila Klassen at 604 543 1534 or BC Hydro directly.

The Chair thanked R. MacDougall and G. Townsley for their informative presentation.

D. Maher left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Summary of Organizational Planning Retreat January 28, 2006

At the September 20, 2006 EAC meeting, the Committee passed a resolution to request that Peter Abrams delete Section 2.3 (Overview of EAC's Operating Environment) from the "Summary of Organizational Planning Retreat January 28, 2006".

The EAC is now requested to pass a recommendation to forward the “Summary of Organizational Planning Retreat January 28, 2006” as amended October, 2006, to Council for information.

It was Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by S. VanKeulen
That the EAC forward the “Summary of Organizational Planning Retreat January 28, 2006” as amended October, 2006, to Council for information.
Carried

2. EAC Workshop

M. Allison, Senior Planner, Long Range Planning and Development advises:

Date: January 20, 2007
Time: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Location: South Surrey Recreation Centre
Multipurpose Room 1
14601 – 20th Avenue

The Chair asked the members present to advise L. Anderson of their availability to attend the Workshop. The Chair further advised that the primary focus of the Workshop is on sustainability of which the EAC is expected to take a leading role.

3. Corporate Report R267 Update on Fraser River, Serpentine & Nicomekl Dyke Systems

File: 5225-17; 5225-01

L. Englund, Environmental Coordinator, provided an overview of Corporate Report R267, issued by the General Manager, Engineering, regarding the Fraser River and the Serpentine and Nicomekl dyke systems. Additional comments were as follows:

- The study done on dyking systems in Surrey is relative to the study done from information in 1948.
- Information gathered was based on the changes in the Fraser watershed looking at flood levels similar to those experienced in 1894 (largest flood of record).
- The largest areas that could be affected in Surrey are along the Fraser River east of 132 Street where there are no dykes and the current building flood elevation now appears to be inadequate.
- The City has taken the position to allow building heights to be lower than the floodplain requirements in some areas because it would have some affect on the character, notwithstanding that there would be liability to the City, but there has been restrictive covenants put in place to show that these areas could be affected.

Conversation ensued regarding the proper dredging of the Fraser River. L. Englund advised that the dredging program that had been going on for years did expire and that there had been a period of time that dredging had not been done, which was a concern. There is an assumption that dredging will be part of the new flood control measures, however further information is not available at this time.

The Chair noted that there is another issue that comes out of this in that the Fraser River provides a renewable resource of gravel, instead of excavating the landscape, the dredging of the river could provide adequate gravel.

D. NEW BUSINESS

E. ITEMS REFERRED BY COUNCIL

- 1. Rosemary Zelinka, Coordinator, Surrey Association of Sustainable Communities (Surrey ASC)**
File: 0250-20

At the December 18, 2006 Regular Council meeting, Council directed that this matter be referred to the EAC for review.

The Chair noted that there are groups that would like to contribute to various initiatives and projects undertaken at the City and that their contributions, without being a part of the Committee, are welcomed.

It was Moved by B.Stilwell
Seconded by C. Dragomir
That the letter dated November 26, 2006
from Rosemary Zelinka, Coordinator, Surrey ASC, be received.
Carried

F. CORRESPONDENCE

G. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. Cougar Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan**
E-correspondence from Jeannie Lee, Project Engineer

L. Englund read the e-correspondence from J. Lee, Project Engineer, requesting the appointment of an EAC member from the City of Surrey to participate in the

Cougar Creek Integrated Stormwater Management Plan that is a joint project with the Corporation of Delta.

The Chair suggested that a copy of the e-correspondence, together with a map of where the study area is, be provided at the upcoming workshop on Saturday, January 20, 2007 and that it will be determined at that time who may be available.

2. EAC Member Participation

Further to the request and discussion in item G.1, the Chair advised the following:

- Committee members' general participation in neighbourhood planning (ie. size of neighbourhoods that have a catchment for an elementary school) is encouraged.
- Often where there are significant slopes and forest cover there are significant environmental issues and the EAC can become quite familiar with these issues.
- Having others involved is a legitimate part of the process.

The Chair noted that one of the on-going topics for the EAC is waste disposal and has been advised of upcoming changes to the blue recycling boxes by R. Costanzo, Deputy Operations Manager. Further updates from R. Costanzo and/or C. Baron regarding waste issues will be forthcoming.

H. OTHER COMPETENT BUSINESS

1. EAC 2007 Priority Items & Work Plan

This item was deferred until the February meeting.

I. NEXT MEETING

The Chair advised that regular meeting dates are the third Wednesday of each month with the exception of August and December with no meeting. If a member is unable to attend, L. Anderson, Legislative Services, should be advised in advance of the meeting.

It was noted that a request was made to consider a meeting in August in place of July if there was enough support and it was agreed that the change to an August meeting will be considered at the meeting in June.

The next meeting of the EAC will be held on February 21, 2007 at 6:30 p.m. in the Executive Board Room.

L. ADJOURNMENT

It was

Moved by B. Stilwell
Seconded by Councillor Bose
That the meeting adjourn.
Carried

The Environmental Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

Certified as true and correct:

Margaret Jones, City Clerk

Chairperson (name and Committee)