
CITY OF KELOWNA

MEMORANDUM

Date: Nov.19, 2003
File No.: 5280-05

To: City Manager

From: Environment Manager

Subject: **Pesticide Notification Registry**

Recommendation:

THAT Council receives the Pesticide Registry Report from the Environment Manager;

AND THAT Council endorses the continuation of the existing notification for the Road Weed Control Program;

AND FURTHER THAT Council endorses a program for private land owners to register their property for notification from Commercial Operators during spray applications on adjacent properties.

Background:

At the request of Council during the regular meeting of May 26, 2003 staff was asked to report back to Council with a recommendation that addresses Earthcare's request for a Pesticide Exemption Registry and Right to Know By-law for the City of Kelowna (May 17, 2003 Earthcare letter to Council, attach 1) .

Staff investigated this issue and recognized that there had been two notification programs. There is an existing registry for exemption of property from the City Roads Crack and Crevice Program and there was a registry developed in 1991 for Commercial Spray Operators to notify property owners. Both programs were minimally subscribed to. The commercial registry was cancelled in 1994 due to lack of use.

In order to gauge public support for a "pesticide notification registry" questions were put in the recent citizen survey. Over two-thirds of respondents having an opinion expressed a positive reaction to the establishment of a pesticide exemption registry and associated by-law that would require commercial pesticide applicators to notify those on the registry when spraying adjacent properties.

The initial registry in 1991 was put forth by Interior Environmental Pest Management Association (IEPMA) representatives. The same association has written the City (attach 2, July 2, 2003) and has no problem with a registry. It is the opinion of staff that an internet based program be developed and implemented for the spring of 2004. The program is for residential properties only and not intended for the agricultural sector.

An initial advertisement to the public for registry inclusion would go out in early February with a criteria list for property inclusion. Residents who want their property included on the list will be asked to phone or email the City and must register each year. They will be required to provide

their phone number. The list of residents and phone numbers will then be made available to the commercial applicators. The trigger for notification to a property owner will be commercial spray operations originating on the abutting property. The above criteria will be the basis for the criteria which will be formalized upon discussion with the IEPMA. Further discussions on the format of notification will also need to occur.

At this time due to the support received from the IEPMA there is no need to require the "notification" through a by-law requirement. The City will work with the commercial applicators to set up the program. In their words "it is just good business and common sense to notify concerned residents".

The existing notification program for the "Crack and Crevice" applications will continue with an increased ad campaign (web page) to ensure there is adequate awareness of the road program. Some other minor modifications will be implemented. All applications of pesticides on City property follow a Pesticide Management Plan which is reviewed and updated annually and managed by our Roads and Equipment Superintendent, Mr. Dale Beaudry.

The City adheres to best management practices for use of pesticides and is reducing overall usage as better controls of weeds and pests are demonstrated to be successful, safe and economically acceptable.

Mark Watt, Environment Manager

John Vos, Director Works & Utilities

Attach 1 ; Earthcare Letter
Attach 2 ; IEPMA Letter

cc: Information Services/Manager System Development

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The following is a list of the attachments that are **not** available with the electronic version of this report. The attachments can be viewed in the City Clerk's Department (3rd level, City Hall):

- Earthcare Letter dated May 17, 2003
- IEPMA Letter dated July 2, 2003