

Request for Decision City Council




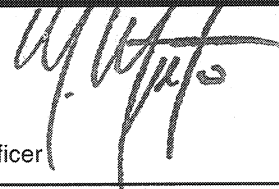
Type of Decision										
Meeting Date	August 10, 2005				Report Date	August 3, 2005				
Decision Requested		Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	Priority	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	High		Low	
Direction Only				Type of Meeting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Open		Closed		

Report Title
Odour Update - Lively and Copper Cliff

Policy Implication + Budget Impact	
<input type="checkbox"/>	This report and recommendation(s) have been reviewed by the Finance Division and the funding source has been identified.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Background Attached

Recommendation	
For Information Only	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Recommendation Continued

Recommended by the Department Head

Alan Stephen General Manager of Infrastructure & Emergency Services

Recommended by the C.A.O.

Mark Mieto Chief Administrative Officer

Date: August 3, 2005

Report Prepared By



R. G. Clausen, P. Eng.
City Engineer

Division Review

This report is further to the information report provided by the General Manager of Infrastructure and Emergency Services on July 27, 2005. A copy of the initial report is attached as Exhibit 'A'.

Since July 27, 2005 an increased program of approximately 700 tons of hydrated lime has been added to the INCO tailings area to minimize odours generated from the decomposing sewage sludge. It is normal for the City to apply hydrated lime during the summer months to control short term localized odour complaints. The significantly increased program this year has been caused by the extraordinarily long duration of hot temperatures and lack of precipitation.

The increased application has significantly reduced odour complaints from the Copper Cliff and Lively residential areas.

A flyer, Exhibit 'B', was delivered to all residents of Copper Cliff and Lively on Friday, July 29, 2005 to describe efforts that the City was undertaking to control the odour problems. As discussed in Alan Stephen's email to Council an expenditure of \$250,000 for the increased hydrated lime application has been spent to-date.

Over the long weekend City staff also did on-site bench testing of a non-hazardous calcium nitrate salt product (Bioxide) which is used to effectively control similar odours at other sewage sites across the province, Canada and North America. If successful, we will consider utilizing Bioxide at some or all our ten sewage treatment plants to pre-treat the sludge prior to hauling to the disposal site. Bioxide will then be used at the disposal site only on an as needed basis to handle local events.

On August 3, 2005 we received permission from both INCO and the Ministry of Environment to try this product on a trial basis in the Tailing area. We anticipate positive results within 48 hours. This product, if effective and compatible with the INCO tailings operation, will be more cost effective than utilizing hydrated lime to control odour problems generated from the decomposing sludge. We estimated the cost of testing the Bioxide to be \$100,000 to \$150,000, which will be less than the cost for additional hydrated lime.

We trust that this brief update report provides sufficient information for Council's purposes. We will be pleased to address any question at the Council Meeting.

EXHIBIT 'A'

From: Alan Stephen
To: Benkovich, Nick; Clausen, Greg; Council; Donaldson, Donald; Gainer, Eldon; Kett, Terry; Lamothe, Ghislain; Montpellier, Moe
Date: 7/27/2005 3:13:32 PM
Subject: Lively Odour Problem

As you are aware, the residents of Lively and now a few residents from Copper Cliff are complaining about a "nauseating" smell which is lingering over their communities. Our TI's have confirmed that the odour is much worst than experienced in the past.

We have determined the odour is originating from the INCO tailings ponds which we use to dump our solid sewage waste products from our sewage treatment plants. There have been a combination of changes to operations in addition to the extremely dry conditions which we believe have created this current odour problem. A combine team of INCO and CGS Engineers met this afternoon to develop short, mid, and long term solutions to the problem.

We have contacted the MOE and Medical Officer of Health. The MOE is doing air monitoring.

Fire Chief is working with Director Water and Wastewater and Director of Operations to provide advice on how to apply the liquid lime solution over the tailing ponds. We maybe able to use our or MNR equipments to assist.

Our staff will commence some immediate short term work this evening (commence a liquid lime dumping program) and that will be developed into a longer term joint plan between INCO and ourselves. We do not expect any immediate reduction in odour levels for at least 24 hrs once we commence our lime applications.

Manager Communications is currently developing a "flyer" which will go to all residents of Lively and if the odour spreads to Copper Cliff those residents as well.

I have authorized the un-forecast expenditure of up to \$250,000 (requirement to procure up to 5,000 cubic metres of liquid lime, etc) as an emergency procurement of goods and services and we will bring this to Council for approval in arrears in August.

I have spoken to Counsellor Kett and am attempting to reach Counsellor Gainer. I would request that all Counsel inquiries are to be directed to my office and I will pass out to Nick and Moe - thereby allowing them to concentrate on the challenges at hand.

I have convened an update meeting for Thursday morning at 0900 hrs and we will keep you informed as such.

Alan Stephen
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CC: IES Transition Team; Senior Management Team



Odour Update

Lively and Copper Cliff

Friday, July 29, 2005

What is going on?

The City of Greater Sudbury reports that the unpleasant odour experienced in certain areas of Lively and Copper Cliff is caused by waste sludge disposed in the tailings ponds located north-east of Lively, near the Creighton Mine. The odour is dispersed towards the Lively area during northerly winds and the Copper Cliff area during westerly winds.

What is the cause of the smell?

The smell is coming from the City's waste sludge disposed at Inco's tailings ponds. Waste sludge is a semi-solid material produced from the municipal wastewater (sewage) treatment plants. The City uses Inco's tailings ponds to dispose of waste sludge. A tailings pond is a large pool area, which contains the fine waste rock material produced by the milling of ore.

Why hasn't this problem occurred in the past?

The City has been disposing of waste sludge in the tailings ponds for many years. However, the extraordinarily hot temperatures and lack of precipitation have caused the tailings area to dry and produce the unusual odour. While there may have been intermittent unpleasant odours in the past, the current situation is significantly worse.

What is the City doing to resolve this issue?

As a short-term solution, City officials started to apply odour control products such as hydrated lime slurry within the tailings ponds. As of Thursday, July 28, the City has dramatically increased the amount of lime to boost the effectiveness of the odour treatment. The City is now applying lime on an ongoing basis in response to the latest odour issue and is continuing to monitor the situation.

What is the City doing to avoid this in the future?

City officials and Ward 1 Councillors Terry Kett and Eldon Gainer are working on a plan to identify long-term solutions to minimize the smell. The City is examining options with Inco that include improving odour control facilities and improving the processes to manage the odour.

Are there any health or environmental concerns?

The City has informed both the Ontario Ministry of Environment and Sudbury and District Health Unit of the odour issue. Both agencies are currently monitoring the situation to ensure that there are no environmental and/or health concerns.

Need more information

Residents and businesses may call the City's Public Works Information Line at 560-2022.

The City apologizes for any inconvenience this has caused and thanks the residents and businesses of Lively and Copper Cliff for their patience.