

Environment

Companies should also be aware of environmental responsibilities

by Barbara Halsall
Herald Special

NASA has called for a BAN OF ALL OZONE DEPLETING CHEMICALS. Tuesday, February 4th, the CBC carried the story that the American Space agency, while doing research with satellites and ER2 (used to be known as U2) high flight aircraft, had discovered additional holes in the ozone and record high levels of chlorine monoxide.

Many people have tried to ignore the problems of ozone depletion or down play it. One US senator is reported as saying that all a few extra ultra violet rays would mean is that people will have to wear sun hats and sun glasses. I guess that as so often happens, he had no grasp of the ecosystem and the damage that might occur to ocean plankton or our food crops. However, this might lead to a real business opportunity, producing sun hats for plants.

Last year I wrote about Northern Telecom working to stop the use of CFCs formerly used as cleaning solvents. Recently, Northern Telecom received an award for eliminating CFCs from its operations worldwide in 1991. In



the latest edition of Engineering Dimensions, the reporter, Alison Piper, tells how this company, realizing the serious state of the ozone layer, is actively sharing the new technology. With the US Environmental Protection Agency, engineers from the Mississauga division will train Mexican engineers. Mexico is planning to phase out CFCs by the year 2000.

Unfortunately, with the new information we have from NASA the targets will have to be drastically moved up.

Northern Telecom is also joining with IBM and Motorola to hold six technical workshops in 1992-1993. IBM has developed a new process at its plants in Bromont, Quebec and Endicott, New York to manufacture substrates, the ceramic base for microchips, without the use of CFCs. IBM has

35 plants in North America, Europe, Japan, South America and Australia. It plans to eliminate CFC use on a worldwide basis by 1993.

Ruth Grier must be applauded for requiring that the CFCs from car air conditioners must be captured and recycled. I'll be telling you more about that program in a column in the future.

The bad news is that our protective ozone is in worse shape than we thought. The good news is that when companies get on track and really work to do the right thing that they can not only be successful but show a profit. Northern Telecom estimates that the new process will allow them to save \$50 million over the next eight years in solvents equipment and utilities costs.

YOU (COMPANIES TOO) CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

P.O.W.E.R. urging Grier to break new ground

The following press release was issued to the Halton Hills Herald by Barbara Halsall, President of local environmental group P.O.W.E.R. (Protect Our Water and Environment Resources.)

Despite the nasty road conditions on Friday, January 17, P.O.W.E.R. made it through to deliver 412 individual letters and two small petitions to the Ministry of the Environment. The 17th was the final day of the public comment period for the Acton Quarry landfill proposal.

You may have seen the delivery as it was recorded by CFTO and CBC AT SIX. Because P.O.W.E.R. was delayed in traffic a strange situation developed at the ministry building. P.O.W.E.R.'s news release had said 10 a.m. and when the media couldn't find any P.O.W.E.R. representatives they went to the Minister's office. Someone in the Minister's office decided that this delivery of letters posed a major threat and so sent a representative to the lobby to stop anyone from P.O.W.E.R. from going upstairs.

When P.O.W.E.R. did arrive a debate ensued, in front of the TV cameras, around who could and should have access to the Minister's office. P.O.W.E.R. offered to only send one person up with the letters instead of three but this still did not sway the Minister's aide until Rita Landry pointed out that if a courier service were to arrive with the letters that there would be no question of access. Seeing the apparent stupidity of their position the aide relented and allowed P.O.W.E.R. President, Barbara Halsall, to carry the letters.

The aide was somewhat taken aback when both TV cameras piled on to the elevator with him and Mrs. Halsall. Another curious event occurred at the door of the offices occupied by Ruth Grier, when Ann Woodward came to accept the letters on behalf of the Minister who was away, the door to the complex had to be unlocked to allow the letters inside. Mrs. Halsall was quoted as saying, "I can't imagine what they were expecting, but I never thought that one woman with a box of letters could be seen as threatening."

After listening to Mrs. Halsall's concerns including quotations from the Environmental Assessment Act, the letters were taken

inside.

On May 15, 1991, Noel Duignan had presented a petition to the legislature with over 12,000 signatures against the dump proposal. Before handing it in, P.O.W.E.R. made copies of the pages and laminated them into a strip over 400 feet long. When they reached street level P.O.W.E.R. took that strip and wrapped it around three sides of the environment building to symbolize for the television cameras that it is time for Ruth Grier to wrap this up and cancel the project.

While there are many conflicting opinions as to whether the current legislation gives the

Minister that power, there certainly are some lawyers and some officials at the Environmental Assessment Board who believe it does.

The Minister's decision is expected in a few weeks. Ruth Grier certainly knows where the people of Halton Hills stand on this issue and they are firmly backed in their opposition by the Town of Halton Hills, Halton Region, the Niagara Escarpment Commission and Halton Region Conservation Authority. She definitely would be breaking new ground if she were to turn this proposal down without a hearing but P.O.W.E.R. believes she has the authority to do it.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROPOSED RECONSTRUCTION OF STEELES AVENUE (REGIONAL ROAD NO. 8) FROM FIFTH LINE SOUTH TO 200 m WEST OF TRAFALGAR ROAD (REGIONAL ROAD NO. 3), TOWN OF HALTON HILLS

Notice is hereby given pursuant to Sections 298 and 301 of the Municipal Act, R.S.O. 1980, Chapter 302 as amended, that the Council for the Regional Municipality of Halton proposes at its meeting on Wednesday, April 1, 1992 to pass a by-law for the reconstruction of Steeles Avenue (Regional Road No. 8) from the Fifth Line South to 200 metres west of Trafalgar Road (Regional Road No. 3).

Plans showing the proposed work may be inspected at the Public Works Department office, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario or at the North District Operations Centre, 1600 Steeles Avenue, Milton, Ontario during normal business hours.

On Wednesday, March 25, 1992 at 9:30 a.m. in the Halton Room at the Regional Administration Building, 1151 Bronte Road, Oakville, Ontario, Council through its Planning and Public Works Committee will hear in person, or by his Counsel, any person who claims that his lands will be prejudicially affected by the said by-law and who applies to the Regional Clerk no later than Friday, March 6, 1992 to be heard.

For further information, please contact Mr. J. Choi, P.Eng., Design Engineer at extension 7611 at the following numbers:

From Milton 825-6030
From Halton Hills 878-8113

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