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Canadian **ENVIRONMENTAL CONTROL** **NEWSLETTER**

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NUMBER **206** OCTOBER 20, 1981

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2,4-D Measures Announced for 1982

Agriculture Minister Eugene Whelan has made public the names of basic suppliers of 2,4-D whose products will be allowed to be sold in Canada. They are

\$20 Million Oil Recycling Plant to Be Built in Toronto

Using imported technology, Shell Canada Ltd. of Toronto is putting \$20 million into a recycling plant to produce 10 million gallons of lubricating oil annually. Production at Shell's wholly-owned subsidiary, Canadian Oil Co., is scheduled to begin this fall at the Cherry Street site in Toronto's port district. However, the plant will not be completed until 1982.

Primarily because supplies of waste oil are problematic, the project is a gamble, according to Dave Fisher, General Manager of Canadian Oil. "There simply is not enough volume of waste oil in Canada", he stressed. Though the company is not asking for funds from Ottawa, it would like federal government support in public education, incentives to conserve used oil, and duty remission on waste oil imports.

The "totally new process" patented and built by Phillips Petroleum Co., of Bartlesville, Ohio, uses hydrogen to produce a chemical reaction which cleans the molecules of waste oil and restores them to their original shape. This contrasts with previously used oil reclamation processes which basically filter the waste oil, Mr. Fisher explained. He noted that "in West Germany, 50 per cent of (lubricating oil) production is recycled" whereas "in Canada, only 2 per cent is recycled. I am appalled that the (federal) government is not doing anything to assist us", Mr. Fisher said. "It is in their interest. It means conserving oil and saving a heck of a lot of money . . . Recycling would not produce enough oil for the whole country", he added, "but certainly (it) would satisfy the needs of the armed forces, for example . . .". At present, Mr. Fisher said "we are buying waste oil from Newfoundland to Saskatchewan and the United States, but it is not easy to deal with these people" who collect and sell waste oil. The company has received shipments, for example, "that were as much as 30 per cent water".

He called for a public education campaign such as the one in the state of New Jersey. There, the state government puts up posters telling people that used oil is very valuable, and should be conserved. "We pay \$38 a barrel to bring oil into Canada and then use it on road oiling", said Mr. Fisher. "Yet every state in the United States has banned road oiling, not only because it wastes oil but also because the oil gets washed into lakes and rivers. Ontario uses about 87 million gallons of lubricants annually and probably half of that reaches the soil in one way or another, and this accumulates year after year." As for incentives to conserve oil, "in Europe, consumers are charged a deposit of 20 to 25 cents on each quart of (lubricating) oil they buy. They get their deposit back when they return the used oil. But here, people change their oil and dump it in their back yard . . .".

Currently, Canadian Oil is charged 12 per cent duty by the federal government on waste oil imported from the U.S., reducing the likelihood that recycling will be profitable. Some supplies have to be imported from the United States since there are not sufficient supplies available in Canada.

Groups Claim Dump Clean-up Completely Inadequate

In response to a proposed settlement of suits against Hooker Chemical Co., of Niagara Falls, New York, concerning the Hyde Park Boulevard chemical dump, U.S. and Canadian environmental groups have filed a brief in U.S. District Court at Buffalo. They claim that the agreement to clean up the huge chemical dump

is unworkable and will result in continued contamination of the Niagara River and Lake Ontario. The brief was filed by Pollution Probe of Toronto, Operation Clean-Niagara of Niagara-on-the-Lake, and the Ecumenical Task Force of Niagara Falls, New York. Environment Canada scientist Douglas Hallett, in an accompanying affidavit, says that the dump may contain more dioxin (TCDD) than any other single location in the world.

Other points made by the groups are: (1) the only way to avoid further environmental damage is to remove the waste in its entirety and either bury it elsewhere or destroy it in an incinerator; and (2) the drinking water of five million people could be contaminated to such a degree that the risk of cancer would be increased. Between 1953 and 1976, Hooker used the dump for an estimated 80,000 tonnes of chemical waste, including the pesticide Mirex, polychlorinated biphenyls, and trichlorophenol. Dr. Hallett estimates that, as yet, no more than 300 grams of a possible ton of TCDD in the dump have found their way into Lake Ontario, indicating the potential for future contamination.

The brief was prepared by Buffalo attorney Barbara Morrison and Toby Vigod, attorney for the Canadian Environmental Law Association. It concludes: "According to our consultants, the program set forth in the agreement is absolutely not viable." In an accompanying document, hydrogeologist E. Grant Anderson, of Unionville, Ontario, said that "these chemicals will be removed from the dump in one of two ways: either by slowly leaching out over the next, literally, thousands of years, or by physically removing the entire dump".

Mercury Tests Planned for Manitoba Indians

Under an order signed by County Court Judge Patrick Ferg in Winnipeg, tests will be carried out next year on 8,000 residents of six northern and central Manitoba Indian communities for suspected mercury poisoning. The order followed federal Health Department preliminary tests, which showed high mercury levels in the blood of Indian people living along waterways which were affected by Manitoba Hydro developments in the past six years.

Extensive Hail Damage Research Under Way in Alberta

Hail damage to agricultural crops throughout the world runs to \$3 billion a year. In Alberta alone, such losses amount to as much as \$100 million annually, according to James Renick, manager of the Alberta Hail Project (AHP), Red Deer, Alberta. That is why the AHP has continued to draw world-wide attention for its hail research and hail suppression efforts, which first began 24 years ago. This year's program, supported by an allocation of more than \$4 million from the Alberta government, began with field work on June 20. The AHP has its headquarters at the Red Deer Industrial Airport, and this year had seven specially-equipped aircraft for its aerial and field work, which continued until the end of August. The work then moved indoors for studying and analyzing the results of the season's operations.

Six of the unit's aircraft were used for cloud-seeding in the area within an 80-mile radius of Red Deer. It was expected that they could log more than a thousand hours sowing silver iodide and dry ice in menacing clouds which sweep in from the Rocky Mountains. This year the AHP had a seventh aircraft, a specially-equipped Cessna Conquest, designed to fly right into hail clouds. Sophisticated equipment in this plane collects data on hail formation and growth inside