

FIFTH MEETING  
OF THE  
OREGON AIR POLLUTION AUTHORITY

September 11, 1952

The fifth meeting of the Oregon State Air Pollution Authority was called to order by the Chairman at 3:10 P.M., Thursday, September 11, 1952, Room 720 State Office Building, 1400 S. W. 5th Ave., Portland, Oregon. Those present were Carl E. Green, Chairman, Merle S. West, Dr. Harold M. Erickson, Mr. Oren L. King, Members; and Curtiss M. Everts, Jr., Secretary. Also present were Mr. R. E. Hatchard, Chief, Air Pollution Control Section, and Mr. W. J. Whitsett, Associate Sanitary Engineer.

MOTION RE: MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The minutes of the fourth meeting of the Authority having been prepared and distributed to the members in advance, it was moved by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. West and carried that the minutes as prepared by the Secretary be approved.

MOTION RE: ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

The chairman then notified the members that through an oversight the Authority had failed to elect officers at the beginning of the present calendar year. It was moved by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. West and carried that the minutes of the third meeting be corrected to state that the Authority officers were elected as of January 1952.

OSWEGO RESIDENTS RE: CINDERS, FLY ASH AND CEMENT DUST:

Mr. Chester A. Ferguson, 350 State Street, Oswego, the owner of Chet Ferguson's Furniture and Gift Shop appeared before the Authority to submit a complaint relative to cinders, fly ash and cement dust in the city of Oswego. Mr. Ferguson stated that he had attended the meeting as a representative of Mr. Chas. A. Needham,

the Mayor of Oswego, who had requested him to present information on air pollution conditions in that city. Mr. Ferguson reported that the Oregon Portland Cement Company plant is located across the highway from his store; that the plant is operated twenty-four hours a day and that a considerable amount of cement dust was emitted from the plant. He also complained of cinders and soot from the Huddleston Lumber Company Mill and the Oswego Planing Mill. He stated further that the Oregon Portland Cement Company installed a filter system in 1944, to remove cement dust but since that time the plant capacity has tripled and that according to reports the filters were not always operated. Mr. Ferguson claimed that the cement dust damaged the finish on automobiles and that the cars of shoppers in the city were often covered with cinders and sawdust within thirty minutes after they had parked in the business district.

The Chairman then asked whether or not the staff had made any investigations in the Oswego area and Mr. Hatchard reported that a preliminary survey had been made which showed that the area was covered with the material described by Mr. Ferguson but that laboratory reports on the analysis of material collected by "particle fall-out jars" had not yet been received.

Mr. Henry Davis who stated that he operates a pharmacy on State Street in Oswego confirmed Mr. Ferguson's description of conditions created by cement dust, fly ash and cinders in Oswego.

Mr. King then asked how long the Oregon Portland Cement Company plant had been operating in Oswego and Mr. Ferguson stated that he was not certain but that it had been there for many years.

Mr. O. C. Roehr stated to the Authority that he represented Mr. Frank McCaslin, President of the Oregon Portland Cement Co., that he was not familiar with all of the details concerning the operation of the Oregon Portland Cement Company plant; that he was present to listen to the statements that were being made. Mr. Roehr mentioned, however, that the plant has been operating in Oswego for over thirty

years and that it was his understanding that the City Council in Oswego invited the Oregon Portland Cement Company to locate in Oswego.

Mr. Ferguson then stated that the city of Oswego was not a first class residential area thirty years ago and that newcomers to the city remain only about thirty days and then move away due to the nuisance created by cement dust.

Mr. R. B. Hopkins, Manager of Oswego Planing Mill, reported last year his mill had constructed a new waste burner which had been approved by the Fire Underwriters and by the State Fire Marshal and requested a copy of any report that the Air Pollution Authority might make which would contain recommendations for the elimination of fly ash and cinders from their waste burner. Mr. Hopkins stated that Mr. Jack Huddleston of the Huddleston Lumber Co., at Oswego had intended to be present but could not attend the meeting of the Authority and that he was also representing Mr. Huddleston.

Mr. King then asked if the Oregon Portland Cement Co., was endeavoring to alleviate the dust problem and Mr. Roehr stated that in 1944 electrostatic precipitators were installed to collect the dust and that since he was not familiar with the operation of the plant and he did not feel able to answer Mr. Ferguson's statement that the filters were not operated at night.

The Chairman then reported that the engineers on the Air Pollution Authority staff are studying the area and will furnish the Authority with a report and recommendations. The Chairman also stated, for the benefit of those present, that the Authority planned to request the various lumber associations in the state to appoint a committee to work with the Authority and its engineers in a comprehensive study of the problem of controlling emissions from lumber and wood products plants.

MOTION RE: OSWEGO CINDERS, FLY ASH AND CEMENT DUST:

After a further brief discussion of the matter, it was moved by Mr. King and seconded by Dr. Erickson and carried that the Authority's engineers continue their

study in Oswego and report in detail to the Authority at the next meeting.

KLEMAN ORCHARDS RE: KEISER SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY, KEISER DISTRICT NORTH OF SALEM.

Mr. Max Kleman, owner of the orchard, appeared before the Authority to submit a complaint regarding damage to his crops caused by emissions from the asphalt plant operated by the Keiser Sand and Gravel Company. Mr. Kleman stated that the asphalt plant was located approximately 300 feet north of his orchard and that the plant began operating this spring. He claimed damage to his apple, pear and berry crop.

Mr. Kleman reported that after first noting the damage that he had observed the direction of the wind and was surprised how frequently the northerly wind carried the plant emissions over into his orchard. Mr. Kleman asked that the photographs taken by Mr. Whitsell during the complaint study be shown to the Authority since he believed the pictures would describe conditions and show the effect on the crops more clearly.

Mr. Hatchard reported on the complaint investigation and showed the photographs of Mr. Kleman's orchard to the Authority. He further stated that a letter was sent to the Central Paving Co., owners of the Keiser Sand and Gravel Company, stating that the plant emissions violated the provisions of the Air Pollution Act and recommended corrective action. Mr. Hatchard then brought to the attention of the Authority a letter from Mr. F. E. Price, Dean of the School of Agriculture, OSC, to which there was attached a report written by H. Hartman and Dr. Hanson of the Horticultural Dept., O.S.C. and which described the damage to the crops and predicted the effect on the orchard if the emissions continue for an extended period of time.

Mr. Arthur Woods, partner in the Central Paving Company, was present at the meeting and asked if it was the purpose of this meeting to establish a claim for Mr. Kleman's alleged damages.

Mr. Green answered that the Authority is required to investigate complaints involving

air pollution and that the statute specifically covers the discharge of air contaminants causing damage to plants or animals. He further stated that the function of the Authority is to require correction of excessive emissions but the Authority certainly was not concerned with establishing the basis for a claim of damage caused from a particular air pollution problem.

Mr. Woods then stated that he could not understand how the plant discharge could effect only Mr. Kleman's orchard since other orchards in the area are healthy.

He stated that he believes Mr. Kleman's orchard has not actually been damaged by the plant emissions and that he would take exception to this statement regarding the prevailing northerly winds at this time of the year. He conceded that occasionally the wind came from the north but not every day. Mr. Woods stated that the complaint from Mr. Kleman is the only one received by the Keiser Sand and Gravel Company. He further stated that he is aware that they have a dust problem and that if it is determined the plant is in the wrong they will make an attempt to correct the situation. A service engineer from the company which manufactured the asphalt plant equipment was expected to visit the asphalt plant in the near future. If a practical control system could not be provided, Mr. Woods explained that as a last resort the plant could be moved to an isolated location. Mr. Woods stated that he did not wish to mislead the Authority members regarding the time required to correct the problem, however he expected by fall to have some plans formulated.

Mr. West requested that when the Keiser Sand and Gravel Company has a proposed plan available that the information and plans be submitted to the Authority for review.

MOTION RE: KEISER SAND AND GRAVEL COMPANY:

It was moved by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. West and carried that the field investigation be continued and that a report would be submitted at the next meeting regarding any corrective measures which the Keiser Sand and Gravel Company may have developed.

MILWAUKIE RESIDENTS RE: WESTERN DOOR AND PLYWOOD, MILWAUKIE:

Mr. Hatchard summarized the area study carried on since the last Authority meeting and explained in detail what the plant management had done to reduce the emissions. Mr. Hatchard stated that the plant management had succeeded in reducing heavy black smoke and other materials emitted from the plant.

Mrs. John E. McGee 436-32nd St., Milwaukie, accompanied by four other ladies was present at the meeting. Mrs. McGee stated that she had not noted any appreciable improvement and that the same conditions which were described at the last Authority meeting still occurred but not quite as bad due to a change in the wind. Mrs. McGee continued that in the mornings at about 7 A.M. and in the evenings at about 6 P.M. the plant discharges a heavy black smoke that is deposited on the clothes and window sills.

Mrs. Probst, Milwaukie, Oregon, stated that just before the last rain there was considerable smoke which returned to the ground level and that even with the windows closed one could smell the fumes inside of the house. She stated that sawdust emission decreased. Mrs. Probst also maintained that the conditions at night are worse than during the day.

MOTION RE: WESTERN DOOR AND PLYWOOD, MILWAUKIE:

It was moved by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. West and carried that the engineering staff continue the study and submit a report at the next meeting.

Nu-BORA SOAP COMPANY, N. W. 12th and Hoyt Sts., Portland, Oregon.

Mr. Hatchard summarized the field work activities to investigate this complaint and reported that the plant management had retained the services of the American Sheet Metal Company to develop collection apparatus, and that Mr. B. A. Crouch, Plant Supt., is working with the American Sheet Metal Co., to develop a venturi-tube

and steam curtain system to collect the soap dust. Mr. Hatchard further stated that the plant owner indicated a willingness to make necessary corrections as long as the cost is within reason and the space required for the equipment will fit in their present building.

COLUMBIA BOULEVARD, PORTLAND. RE: BURNING REFUSE DUMP.

Mr. Hatchard reported that the operator of the refuse dump on Columbia Blvd., is now taking reasonable precautions to prevent burning of materials that would create excessive smoke. It was pointed out, however, that an open burning refuse dump can not be operated in a community without creating nuisance conditions unless a properly designed incinerator is provided. The question was raised whether it was the intent of the Air Pollution Act to provide for abatement of this type of nuisance since existing nuisance statutes likely would cover this situation. It was decided to submit the question informally to the Attorney General's office for comment.

S.E. 8th and Taylor, PORTLAND, OREGON. PAINT DAMAGE.

Mr. Hatchard advised that the damage to paint on automobiles has not been occurring as frequently as the complaint indicated. A preliminary survey of this area indicated that more than one plants' discharge could be responsible and that special sample equipment which is required for more detailed field study by the staff has been ordered but has not yet been delivered.

QUARTERLY REPORTS.

Mr. Everts stated that the Air Pollution Control Section had not previously prepared a Quarterly Report due to the date that the section began operations. Much of the information and data which was reported today will be contained in the Quarterly Report. This report will be mailed to the Authority members and will reduce the amount of details to be discussed at the meetings.

FUTURE PROGRAM

The need for industry-wide study of air pollution problems effecting many similar

plants was discussed and the suggestion was made that the Authority invite industries to organize committees for the purpose of studying problems and co-operating with the Authority in developing information which would be of assistance to the industry in the correction and prevention of any air contamination problems.

MOTION RE: EFFORT TO SECURE INDUSTRY-WIDE COOPERATION:

It was moved by Mr. West and seconded by Mr. King and carried that the Secretary be authorized to contact the lumber, pulp, foundry and other industrial associations in an effort to secure industry-wide cooperation in the study of air pollution problems.

Mr. King stated that the city officials need recommended rules and regulations so that municipal ordinances may be considered and in the meantime, the investigation of complaints should be delayed until the recommended rules and regulations have been prepared. Mr. King further stated that considerable field work will be required to develop these recommendations for municipal control. Mr. Everts added that the magnitude of the state-wide problem has not yet been determined and also there is a need to continue study of equipment and laboratory procedures which will be required to further the Air Pollution Control activities. It was the opinion of the Authority that if the basic data for air pollution control activities were to be collected the staff could not spend considerable time on the investigation of individual complaints.

Laboratory and field equipment that has been ordered or studied was also discussed and it was directed that additional equipment be ordered when it is determined that the items would be necessary.

Mr. Green suggested that the district engineers of the State Board of Health who are stationed in Pendleton, Eugene and Grants Pass be relied upon to make initial field investigations and report their findings to Mr. Hatchard and that if the particular complaints were very important that additional investigations could be

undertaken.

MOTION RE: DISTRICT ENGINEER SERVICES FOR AIR POLLUTION CONTROL WORK.

It was moved by Mr. King and seconded by Mr. West and carried that arrangements be made for the district engineers' services for air pollution control activities and to budget one district engineer's salary and expenses for this work.

EDUCATIONAL PROGRAM.

Mr. Hatchard suggested that a pamphlet be prepared which would briefly explain the Air Pollution Act and control activities for public information.

Mr. Green suggested that information be prepared for a newspaper article and that the Health Education Staff, State Board of Health, collaborate on this material.

Mr. King suggested that it would be a good plan for the future to have a member of the staff speak on air pollution control activities before service clubs, Chambers of Commerce and other interested groups before the end of the year.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING.

The Chairman was authorized to call a meeting for December 3, 1952. There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 5:30 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

Curtiss M. Everts, Jr., Secretary  
Air Pollution Authority