

FOURTH MEETING
OF THE
OREGON AIR POLLUTION AUTHORITY

June 11, 1952

The fourth meeting of the Oregon State Air Pollution Authority was called to order by the chairman at 2:10 P. M. Wednesday, June 11, 1952, in the offices of the Oregon State Board of Health at 1400 S. W. 5th Avenue, Portland, Oregon. Those present were Carl E. Green, Chairman, Merle S. West, Dr. Harold M. Erickson, Mr. Harold Wendel, Members; and Curtiss M. Everts, Jr., Secretary.

MINUTES: The minutes of the Third meeting of the Authority having been prepared and distributed to the members in advance, MOTION by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. Wendel and carried that the minutes as prepared by the Secretary be approved.

PERSONNEL: The Chairman stated that the search for a well-qualified engineer to direct the technical program was continued during the period between meetings. The decision was made on Mr. Evert's recommendation to place in charge of the program Mr. R. E. Hatchard who has been employed for several years by the Public Health Engineering Section, State Board of Health, and who was Sanitary Engineer for the Oregon State Civil Defense agency. All major universities in the country who had courses in public health, industrial hygiene and some with Air Pollution Control had been contacted and the Civil Service Commission tried to recruit an engineer but with no success.

Mr. Hatchard was then introduced to the board by the Chairman. The matter of program was discussed and the Chairman asked Mr. Hatchard to outline the program he planned to recommend and to discuss briefly the major items.

COMPLAINTS:

Milwaukie Residents Re: Western Door and Plywood Corporation: The Au-

thority then considered the petition signed by seventy-one Milwaukie residents and property owners in which it was alleged that emissions from the Western Door and Plywood Corporation were creating a nuisance in the neighborhood. Mr. B. G. Skulason, Attorney, and resident of Milwaukie, appeared before the Authority in behalf of the signers of the petition to present the problem caused by this industry and called on some of the residents to state the situation.

Mrs. John E. McGee, 436-32nd St., Milwaukie, located approximately two blocks northeast of the Western Door and Plywood Company, presented a sample of the material which fell on her porch during just one night and stated that the material comes down on laundry, covered outside lawn furniture, and filled the air and causes throat irritation and coughing. At night when the windows are open it fills the room, causes burning and coughing and makes room cleaning very difficult. She stated that this situation has existed in the area since the plant began operation approximately two to three years ago. Mrs. McGee also reported that in addition to the black smoke and debris an additional problem was created by a lower pipe of some sort and that emitted material that smelled like creosote and that there was a downblow that should be contained in an underground concrete tank but the noise from steam which occurred at intervals of about fifteen minutes awakened them at night. The plant is in the city limits.

Mrs. Z. A. Olson of 916-29th St., located southwest of the plant complained that these conditions occurred at her home all summer. Mrs. Olson also submitted a sample of the material collected from her steps and back porch and stated that wind carried the material to her property and the south wind carries it to Mrs. McGee's property. Mrs. Olson also stated that the plant operates twenty-four hours per day and an odor is wafted in on the breeze, and that when she complained to the local authorities they told her that it

was caused by trains which run near her home and they were of no help.

Mr. Owen Nichols of 2935 Harrison Street, Milwaukie, located about one block S. W. of the plant stated that his property receives the debris and odor when a northeast wind blows; that he just recently washed the house and now it seems to have another covering of greasy, oily substance which also settles on one's clothes when outdoors. He reported that the material could not be brushed off, but leaves an oily streak and settles on cars at night and that if a dew has fallen or a light rain has descended the material sticks all over the car.

Mr. Skulason then stated that he has complained to the industry but nothing was ever done.

Mr. Nichols further reported that a real estate agent has estimated a 3 to 3500 dollar depreciation of the property and that a Mr. Clark, who planned to sell his home was offered \$9,000 loan but after the loan agency representative investigated the site he offered \$1,000 less on the loan.

Mrs. B. S. Eremeff, (Mr. Skulason's daughter) 721-34th St., Milwaukie, who lives two blocks from the plant stated that she had nothing further to add other than what was said by the other complainants but that all laundry is ruined, every plant and leaf is coated with an oily substance and that this condition has been going on for about two years.

Mr. Skulason stated that the Western Door and Plywood have taken the attitude of "public be damned".

Mrs. Howard Hamlin, 514-32nd St., Milwaukie, located three blocks from the plant, stated that she has lived there for eleven years; that there is a great deal of smoke that settles on the patio at her home; that the sawdust blower emits sawdust and she claimed that it is very detrimental to her children's health.

Mr. Green stated that he thought that the Authority had enough data to warrant an investigation.

At the request of Mrs. McGee, Mr. Skulason presented his experience with the problem and stated that he had observed accumulations of debris on the window sills and that his room is on the N. W. corner of the house so one window was exposed directly to smoke from the factory. One night about one year ago he woke up and was certain he was about to expire for he could not get his breath and suffered orthopnea. The window on the north side of the house was open. He got up and found that the room was full of some sort of noxious vapor even though it was a balmy, bright moonlit night. He searched for the source of the odor and found that smoke from the plant was responsible.

MOTION: It was MOVED by Mr. Wendel, seconded by Dr. Erickson and carried that the Authority immediately put an investigator on the scene to study this complaint and if the situation is as described by the complainants, that an order to cease and desist be considered at the next meeting.

Columbia Boulevard, Portland Re: Burning Refuse Dump:

Mr. Wm. C. McCulloch and Mr. Meyers, attorneys, for National Biscuit Co., were present.

Mr. Meyers appeared before the Authority and presented a letter to the Members relative to smoke and odors from a garbage dump north of the National Biscuit Company Plant on Columbia Boulevard. Mr. Meyers stated that it is located on the north bank of the Columbia Slough and has been operated for a number of years by Mr. Henry Seivert who has been in and out of trouble with County Authorities. He reported that in December 1951, the National Biscuit Company asked them to do something about the dump which is burned openly for the wind carries refuse across the road and it settles over their new plant and grounds. Mr. Meyers had investigated the situation and determined then the best procedure was to go before the Board of County Commissioners with the request that an abatement order be issued. A number of property owners signed a petition governing the operation of the dump and the petition is before the Board of County Commissioners to be heard. Mr. Meyers also

reported that raw household garbage is not burned at the dump area. Since the petition has been filed, the operator of the dump is a little more careful than in the past, but the black smoke and debris affects the National Biscuit Company plant which operates around the clock and that homes and motels in that area and everyone within a mile are affected by the smoke and debris. They would appreciate an investigation.

Mr. Green asked if it has been approached as a public nuisance. Mr. Meyers replied that it had been alleged in a petition that it was a public nuisance; that the District Attorney is handling it on that theory and turned it over to the County Health Department for consideration.

Mr. Wendel asked if this is a collector of domestic refuse. Mr. McCulloch answered that his impression is that Mr. Sievert has a dump of substantial area there and that he did not collect the refuse but charged a fee to collectors for use of the dump as a disposal area and that the main complaint is the burning of refuse which produces smoke and fumes all the time.

Mr. Allen, Manager of National Biscuit Company, thanked the Members for their consideration of this situation and stated that it is a very serious problem for a considerable amount of material is deposited on cars and when rain and dew cover the cars it makes a plaster-like substance. Mr. Allen stated that his company would cooperate with the Authority.

Dr. Charlton, member of the Portland Chamber of Commerce, Recreation and Natural Resources Committee reported as to what the proceedings and complaint were.

MOTION: It was MOVED by Mr. Wendel, seconded by Dr. Erickson and carried that the complaint be investigated and that if conditions are as alleged we proceed with appropriate action.

Nu-Bora Soap Company:

Mr. Hatchard quoted briefly from a report from the Industrial Hygiene Department of the State Board of Health on their investigation of a complaint

alleging atmospheric pollution by the Nu-Bora Soap Company.

Mr. B. F. Dalton, representing Oregon Transfer Company appeared before the Authority and stated that the transfer company has an office building and parking lot opposite Nu-Bora Soap Company; that a fine soap-like substance comes out of the top of the stack and filters over the top of the cars; that it comes through the windows of the office building and causes considerable throat irritation and that one of the tenants is now home sick from the soap which has filtered into the office. Mr. Dalton thought that if the soap company had some sort of filter on the ventilator it would prevent the soap from escaping and getting into the office or on cars for when it rains the soap mars the paint on the cars.

MOTION: It was MOVED by Mr. West and seconded by Dr. Erickson and carried that the complaint be investigated and that a report be furnished to the Authority.

Dr. Charlton's laboratory has made some examinations of specimens collected from the automobiles. A number of cars had to be repainted. The insurance company has been concerned about this.

Mr. Everts reported a complaint in which it was alleged that paint on cars located in the vicinity of the Hyster Company had been damaged by some atmospheric substance. He summarized the report of the Industrial Hygiene Section, State Board of Health.

MOTION: It was MOVED by Dr. Erickson, seconded by Mr. West and carried that the matter be investigated and a report furnished the Authority.

Reynolds Metals Company, Troutdale-Corbett Area: Mr. Harold Zey, Chemist.

Fred A. Yerke, Attorney representing Reynolds Metal Company appeared before the Authority, and stated that he would be glad to answer any questions.

After a brief discussion of the status of damage suits, Mr. Green requested Mr. Hatchard to review the data on fluorine assembled by the Oregon State

College Agricultural Experiment Station and submit a report to the Authority at the next meeting.

Mr. Everts then discussed the 1952-53 budget with Members of the Authority. It was recommended to the Business Manager of the State Board of Health not to attempt to make any changes in the budget until the program is developed more in detail.

Date of next meeting: The Chairman was authorized to call a meeting during the month of August.

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:15 P. M.

Respectfully submitted,

CURTISS M. EVERTS, JR., SECRETARY
Air Pollution Authority