

SPECIAL MEETING
OF THE
OREGON AIR POLLUTION AUTHORITY

January 7th, 1953

A special meeting of the Air Pollution Authority was called to order by the Chairman at 12:30 P.M., Wednesday, January 7, 1953, in Room 3, Aero Club Bldg., Portland, Oregon. Those present were Carl E. Green, Chairman, Dr. Harold M. Erickson, Oren L. King, Harold F. Wendel and Merle S. West, Members and Curtiss M. Everts, Jr., Secretary, also present were R. E. Hatchard, Wilbur J. Whitsell, and Frank Terraglio, Air Pollution Authority staff, and George W. Gleeson, Dean, School of Engineering, Oregon State College, and Cecil Quesseth, Assistant Attorney General, State Sanitary Authority.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING:

The reading of minutes of the sixth meeting of the Authority was dispensed with since the minutes had been prepared and distributed to the members in advance.

POLICY RE: CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION WITHIN CITIES:

The Chairman opened a discussion on the future policy of the Authority with regard to participation in air pollution control activities in cities throughout the state.

It was Mr. West's opinion that the Authority should cooperate with cities on problems of air pollution control, and that the Authority should gather information on the subject and make it available to cities. In smaller cities that cannot carry on a program, the Authority could furnish some assistance when serious problems develop, but cities should be advised that the Authority will expect them to carry on their own air pollution control programs.

Mr. King stated that as a city manager he was particularly interested in the policy

developed by the Authority and that he had discussed the relationship with Mr. Herman Kehrli, Executive Secretary, Mr. Mark Westling, Public Works Consultant and Mr. Raymond C. Coulter, Legal Consultant, all of the League of Oregon Cities. Mr. King reported that it was their belief that the Authority should preserve local autonomy in the field of air pollution control and that the laws under which the Authority functions would not prevent a city from adopting air pollution control ordinances to handle local problems. It was Mr. King's belief that the Air Pollution Authority should consult with and furnish technical advice for cities.

Mr. Wendel stated that he had raised the question of state-city relationship initially to make certain that in the conduct of the state program that duplication of effort would be avoided and that air purity could be effected with the least cost to the tax payer.

Mr. Green made reference to the letter, signed by Francis Hill, Bruce Morrison and Edward Huffs Schmidt representing a committee of the Columbia Empire Industries Inc., and addressed to the Portland Air Pollution Committee in which the establishment of an air pollution control program in Portland was opposed on the grounds that the State Air Pollution Authority could and should handle such matters. It was Mr. Green's opinion that neither the staff nor the operating funds of the Air Pollution Authority would ever be sufficient to control or supervise the thousands of individual sources of air contamination which exist or would potentially exist in a city as large as Portland. It was Mr. Green's belief that such sources of air pollution could best be controlled by an adequate municipal program.

Dr. Erickson thought that the prime responsibility for control of local air pollution problems should rest with the cities and that they could adopt ordinances with standards equal to or higher than those established by the Authority.

He also recommended that in drafting a reply to the letter from the Portland Air Pollution Committee that the historical background that led to the creation of the

Authority should be outlined and it should also be mentioned that at no time during the preparation of the law was it contemplated that the Air Pollution Authority would be responsible for the abatement of air pollution originating in cities unless the city should fail to correct the problem. He also suggested that it be pointed out to the Portland committee that the Air Pollution Authority has the responsibility for the control or abatement of air pollution which originates outside of cities or in adjacent areas over which local authorities have no control.

Dean George Gleeson then asked if the Air Pollution Authority was empowered to delegate its authority to a city that adopted an appropriate ordinance.

Attorney Queseth did not believe that the Authority could relieve itself of any responsibility but that in so far as he could determine there was nothing to prevent a city from adopting an ordinance for local control of air contamination and the Authority could probably exercise jurisdiction if local authorities failed to enforce such ordinances.

MOTION RE: CONTROL OF AIR POLLUTION WITHIN CITIES:

It was moved by Mr. Wendel and seconded by Mr. King and unanimously carried that the policy of the Air Pollution Authority with regard to the control of air pollution in cities would be as follows.

1. To preserve and encourage local autonomy on matters of air pollution control to the extent that cities would be expected to carry on local programs for air pollution control with such technical assistance and advice from the Air Pollution Authority as may be necessary.
2. Cooperate with cities in the furtherance of local air pollution control programs.
3. Collect and disseminate information to cities on the prevention and control of air pollution.

STUDY OF COMBUSTION PROBLEMS OF WOOD MATERIALS AND WASTE:

The Chairman then requested Dean George W. Gleeson to open the discussion on the subject of combustion of waste wood.

Dean Gleeson reported that the Oregon State College had undertaken a study of this problem several years ago and had arranged for use of a full scale burner at one of the local lumber mills. In addition studies had also been planned using a pilot unit at the college. He stated that when the professor in charge of the investigation left the college the studies were dropped.

When the matter was again brought to his attention in a letter from the Chairman of the Authority about a month ago, he was of the opinion that the investigation might be undertaken by the Forest Products Laboratory at the college. He learned later, however, that the Forest Products Laboratory had no authority to undertake such studies.

It was the Dean's opinion that a solution to the problem might be obtained by either the improvement of combustion in existing facilities or the development of a new type of burner. Of the two he believed that the former offered the best possibility. He stated that in his experience that smoke and particulate matter could be eliminated from plants in which smoke stacks were used but that open burners were somewhat more of a problem.

Mr. Green asked if information was available which could be disseminated to industry; and the Dean reported that it was not.

Dean Gleeson suggested, however, an educational approach to the problem and that any further studies to be conducted by the college would require additional personnel and funds.

The concensus of opinion was that it should not be the policy of the Authority to

solve such problems for industry, but to encourage industry to finance their own investigations and studies. Dean Gleeson supported this policy and suggested that the matter be brought to the attention of the industry committee now being formed by the Associated Forest Industries of Oregon located in Salem.

QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT:

Mr. Hatchard spoke briefly on the activities of the staff during the last quarter of 1952.

Mr. Whitsell summarized the results of analyses of samples collected at particle fallout sampling stations located in Portland, Milwaukie, Oswego, Oregon City, Corvallis, Astoria, North Bend and Coos Bay.

AUTHORIZATION FOR EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:

The Secretary requested authorization for the purchase of needed field and laboratory equipment as follows:

Automatic Filter Paper Sampler
 Directional Particle Fallout Unit
 Wind speed and direction recorders
 Additional stands for 30 fallout stations.

MOTION RE: EQUIPMENT PURCHASE:

It was moved by Mr. King, seconded by Mr. Wendel and carried that authorization for purchase of the equipment be granted.

PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE ACT RE: TRANSFER OF UNOBLIGATED FUNDS:

The Secretary then read the proposed legislative act which would transfer unobligated funds from the 1951-1952 Air Pollution Authority account to the general fund after July 1, 1953. The principle of the bill was approved.

PORTLAND RE: BURNING REFUSE DUMP, N. E. COLUMBIA BOULEVARD:

The Authority then reviewed the report prepared by Mr. Whitsell on the burning of garbage and refuse at a site in the vicinity of N.E. Columbia Blvd., outside the city limits of Portland.

MOTION RE: SEIVERT REFUSE DUMP N. E. COLUMBIA BOULEVARD, PORTLAND:

After hearing a report of additional complaints which property owners had made to the staff, and learning that the problem could not be corrected unless the open burning of refuse is stopped; it was moved by Mr. West, seconded by Mr. King and carried that Mr. Seivert be cited to appear before the Authority and show cause why action should not be instituted against him to abate the nuisance caused by the burning of refuse along N. E. Columbia Boulevard near the City of Portland.

INTERSTATE AIR POLLUTION PROBLEMS:

The matter of handling interstate air pollution problems was then discussed. It was pointed out that the State of Washington had no air pollution laws, but that it was expected that the legislature in that state would attempt to establish a program this year.

The Secretary was then directed to bring to the attention of the Governor of Oregon and the Columbia Basin Interagency Committee the potential interstate air pollution problem and recommended that the matter be brought to the attention of appropriate authorities in the State of Washington to encourage the adoption of legislation.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING:

The date for the next meeting was announced as February 18, 1953.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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