Water Pollution Historical Documents (1948-1957)

Letter dated July 17, 1957 from Washington State Department of Game to Local District Supervisor

Letter relating telephone conversation with Washington State Pollution Control Commission discussing drainage from Sea-Tac airport causing fish kills in Miller Creek., including the recent plant of fish just prior to the opening of fishing season. Suggestions made to eliminate Miller Creek from future fish planting until problem is solved as well as contact newspapers about the problem.

Letter dated June 20, 1957 from Kenneth R. Jones, Metropolitan Engineering Manager to Earle Bigler, Manager of Sea-Tac Airport

Letter from Pollution Control Board confirming conversation with Port of Seattle assistant airport manager concerning recent killing of over 1,000 Rainbow Trout 8-10 inches in length as a result of discharge of "plane wash waters". Letter states "[t]he most desirable system to provide proper disposal facilities in a single facility rather than in separate treatment units for each airline. Treatment will probably consist of adequate oil separation and chemical removal of emulsified oils and sludges."

Inter-Office Memorandum dated June 5, 1957 issued by Washington State Pollution Control Commission

Memorandum reports meeting with Sea-Tac Airport Assistant Manager to discuss fill kill reported by Department of Game. The two agree to write a letter concerning the situation.

Letter dated May 20, 1957 from Washington State Pollution Control Commission

Letter from Pollution Control Commissions concerning kill of planted trout states "the Sea-Tac airport will have to apply for a waste discharge permit and we will have to run a bio-assay on the existing effluent."

Letter dated March 30, 1954 from State of Washington Pollution Control Commission to Chief Engineer, Port of Seattle

Letter from Pollution Control Commission to Port concerning waste filtration facilities proposed by Port states "[i]t is our opinion that the installation you proposed will accomplish very little under present conditions" and that " there is a definite need to separate the oily wastes from the storm sewer or to provide adequate treatment for the combined wastes."

Letter dated February 15, 1954 from State of Washington Pollution Control Commission to Port of Seattle

Letter noting that oil separators installed by airline tenants fail to control waste and noting that the Port's proposal to run oily waste through a sand filter "will accomplish very little toward adequately and permanently solving the waste disposal problem." Letter also notes that the Port's airline leases require the Port "to provide adequate waste disposal facilities."

Letter dated November 12, 1953 from State Representative Andy Hess (31st District) to State Pollution Control Board

A scathing letter to the State Pollution Control Commission recapping the events of the past seven years. Representative Hess recounts that a property owner has filed suit for damages, naming the Port of Seattle as defendant, and cites the allegations in the complaint which include "... said... waters... have deposited vast quantities of oil, grease, and foreign and harmful substances upon plaintiffs's soil, impregnating the same so that on 8/19/52 a sample of said soil showed a deposit of oil amounting to 620 gallons per acre."... "That said waters, discharged by defendants aforesaid (Port of Seattle), have left a black crusty material on the tree trunks and brush and over the ground which is of sufficient oil content that the same ignites and burns with a smoky oily flame."

Letter dated April 22, 1953 from Pollution Control Commission to Port of Seattle

Letter approving plans for increasing the size of the lagoon for "Plane Wash Waste"

Letter dated April 21, 1953 from Port of Seattle to Pollution Control Commission

Letter stating that the Port is "doubling the size of the lagoon near the sough margin of the airport property."

Letter dated March 5, 1953 from Port of Seattle to State Pollution Control Commission

Letter discussing use of "a separator pit for separating grease and other impurities form plane wash waste before emptying into Port of Seattle drainage system or elsewhere on the property" as a temporary installation "until such time as a permanent system can be developed."

Letter dated October 30, 1952 from Leo A. Daly Company to Washington State Pollution Control Commission

Letter reporting that the results of a laboratory test to dilute waste oil and emulsified oils unsatisfactory.

Letter dated September 27, 1951 from Des Moines resident to State Pollution Commission

Letter concerning "pollution of Des Moines Creek, caused by the dumpling of airplane washings and oil from the Seattle-Tacoma Airport . . . " noting "[t]his condition has existed now for over four years, with the result that a large area of our property has become impregnated with oil and scum due to the overflow from the "settling pit" finding its way into the airport storm sewer."

Letter dated January 29, 1951

Letter from Pollution Control Commission to Northwest Air Lines concerning "accidental spilling of heavy oil in the Northwest Airlines hanger, and failure of the Airlines to keep the oil sump cleaned."

Letter dated March 31, 1950 from N.E. Waggoner, Senior Public Health Engineer to Port of Seattle

Letter noting that "[d]uring a recent inspection of the United Airlines Hanger at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport on March 29, 1050, it was found that employees were dumping oil into the sanitary sewers."

Letter dated December 9, 1949 from Assistant Director & Associate Engineer to Chief Engineer, Port of Seattle.

Letter issued by State Pollution Control Board stating "We are preparing to issue an order requiring complete removal of airplane washings from the storm sewer and from Des Moines Creek. We are convinced that anything less than that will always be subject to accidents and much controversy."

Letter dated November 12, 1949 from City of Seattle and King County Department of Public Health to State of Washington Pollution Control Division

Letter from the Health Department refers complaints regarding the matter of "waste wash water from the Northwest Airlines hanger at Bow Lake Airport" to the State's Pollution Control Commission.

Memorandum dated June 25, 1948 from State of Washington Pollution Control Division

Memorandum of meeting attended by Seattle Port Commissioners, the Port's Chief Engineer, the Director and the Chief Biologist of Washington State Pollution Control Commission. Attendees suggest that the Port "dig a large pit in the vicinity of the hangers where the planes are washed, so as to run the drainage waters into it . . ."

Report dated June 8, 1948 from Laucks Laboratories - "Preliminary Report on Contamination at Bow Lake Airport"

Report describing the material used to wash aircraft and possible means of treatment of this material after the operation of washing aircraft.

Letter dated May 26, 1948 from the Port of Seattle

Letter noting the Port has just completed design of the sewage treatment plant for the airport requests information as to whether the treatment plant will treat the emulsifying agents used to wash airplanes.

Memorandum dated April 16, 1948 from State of Washington Pollution Control Commission

Memorandum relates Port of Seattle Chief Engineer stating that since the Port commissioners had requested the airlines cease polluting Des Moines Creek he assumed the airlines had ceased doing so and that "the rest is up to the State Pollution Control Commission." Memo includes a citation of letter from attorney representing airline tenant and states "we feel that at an early date the Port of Seattle will recognize its obligations both to us and to the State and thereupon undertake corrective procedures."

Letter dated April 15, 1948 from Port of Seattle to Northwest Airlines

Letter references previous correspondence with the airline tenants concerning "pollution that is taking place in Des Moines Creek" and alleges that continued discharges of detergent into Des Moines creek by the tenant constitutes a violation of the tenants lease with the Port.

Letter dated January 27, 1948 from State of Washington Department of Game to President of the Angle Lake Community Club

Letter acknowledging receipt of a resolution of the Angle Lake Community Club and requesting that the Department of Game replant fish in the stream "which originates in Bow Lake". The Department of Game writes "[w]e do not feel justified in making plants of valuable fish if they are to be periodically subjected to the lethal effluence from the airport."

Letter dated December 17, 1947 from Washington State's Pollution Control Commission to Airline Tenant at Sea-Tac Airport

Letter discusses that "[i]nvestigation has disclosed that the caustic materials used in washing the airplanes drain into Des Moines Creek and have killed all the fish." The letter requests that other means of disposing of drainage "be inaugurated at once."

Petition dated November 17, 1947 from property owners to State Pollution Control Commission

Petition signed by nine property owners near Sea-Tac airport requesting that the State take action "to compel the Seattle Tacoma Airport at Bow Lake to cease pollution of the waters of the Des Moines Creek by drainage from the hangers."

Memorandum dated November 12, 1947 from State of Washington Pollution Control Division to its Chief Biologist

Memorandum describing an inspection which revealed that drainage from "Bow Lake Airport" (Former name for Sea-Tac Airport) "finds its way into Des Moines Creek" and that dead fish had been noticed in the stream.

Letter dated October 6, 1947 from Lauck's Laboratories Inc. to Port of Seattle

Letter from testing laboratory to Port of Seattle Chief Engineer describing how cleaning detergents and emulsifying agents used at the airport are being rinsed into local storm sewers.



Proceedings to search of Dr. W. R. Bernord, Chairman, Change Edson Dow, Wendlohee James A. Loudon, Yakima Richard S. Semard, Seattle Claude C. Snider, Vancouver Walt Failor, Aberdeen

Director of Chang | John A. Biggs

State of Washington

DEPARTMENT OF GAME

509 Fairriew Avenue North / Seattle 9, Washington

July 17, 1957

Ed Chitwood Supervisor Matrict 🚱 Separtment of Came Scattle, Washington

Pollution Control Commission

Coar Edi

In a telephone conversation with Al Hell of the Pollution Jon trol Commission, he advised of the difficulties the; have elecuntered in trying to get a correction at the Seattle-Pacona Airport. Drainage from the field eventually lines is way into Millor Greek. Forte materials used at the airport have caused several fish hills. The best recent which was called to my attention, was the loss of the entire plant of fish made just prior to the opening of the season.

Mr. Beil has suggested we climinate Miller Treek From our planting list until be advises us that a satisfactory correction has been made. Hr. Hell also suggested that if we so desired it might not hurt to let the newspapers know the situation.

Very truly yours.

THE DEPAREMENT OF GAME

Robert C. Heigs, Asst. Chief

Fishery Management Division

RC11 rmc

cc: Harry Senn C. F. Pautake

Pollution Control Corrission/

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COPY

Albert D. Rosellini

224_Old_Capitol_Building

XXXXXXXXX

June 20, 1957

Mr. Earle S. Bigler, Manager Seattle Tacous International Airport Seattle 88, Washington

Dear Mr. Sigler:

This letter is to confirm my discussion with Mr. Donald G. Shay, assistant airport manager, on June 5, 1987, relative to a recent fish kill in the creek which drains from Bow Lake. The kill occurred as a unit of discharge of plane wash waters which contain a variety of chemicals and oils. Over 1,000 Bainbow Trout 8-10 inches in length were killed within a 12 hour period on May 20, 1957. Complaints from residents along the creek have been renewed since that time regarding water conditions below the airport drainage.

This particular situation has been a reoccurring one over many years. To date partial correction of this problem has been research accordance escaperator and the surport has installed a bolding lagoon. Unfortunately the holding lagoon is completely ineffective during rain storas. Plane wash waters discharge into the surport stora sever and are divorted during any weather into the lagoon. During storas the combined waste and stora water bypass the lagoon.

The recent fish kill of May 20, 1957, apparently resulted from improper functioning of facilities in service. Since this situation is a continuously impending one, it is necessary that a correction be made to prelude further damage in the waterway. Furthermore, continual expansion of sirport facilities can only aggrevate the existing problem and proper waste disposal must be considered along with expansion plans.

There are two immediately apparent methods of handling the problem. Viz., construction of a separate industrial waste sever and waste treatment facilities; or require each airline to provide suitable treatment for its waste prior to discharge to the storm sever.

The most designable system to provide proper disposal facilities is in a single facility rather than in separate treatment units for each sirline. Treatment will probably consist of adequate oil separation and chemical removal of emulsified oils and sludges. ment units for each sirline. Treatment will probably consist of adequate oil separation and chemical removal of emulsified oils and sludges.

It is requested that immediate consideration be given to the treatment and disposal of industrial wastes produced at the Seattle-Tacoms Airport and that the Pollution Control Commission be notified of proposed action that will be taken to correct this problem.

Bincerely,

Kenneth R. Jones Engineer, Metropolitan District

ERJ:dn co: Game Dept.

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STATE OF WASHINGTON POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION 224 DLD CAPITOL BUILDING

OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Hen Jones & Don Peterson May 20, 1957

Al Neals

Fish kills on Miller Creek

Below the Sea-Tac, Airport

Bob Meigs called regarding a kill of planted trout in the creek which drains Bow Lake.

Additional information can be obtained from Mr. Les Walters who is the Supervisor of the Seward Park Hatchery of the State Game Dept.

Actually the Sea-Tac. Airport will have to apply for a waste discharge permit and we will have to run a bio-essay on the exist-ing effluent.

Our recommendations are to be transmitted to the State Game Department.

(P)

Alfred T. Neale Associate Engineer in Charge

ATN:dn

cc: Bob Maigs

STATE OF WASHING I POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

... OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

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ნე მენდაგერი იუფიციი გარისი — ამ მირი მირი მარია **Harch 30, 1954** რები მირი მირი მირი აფორო**ადა** მამეტატის მ



Mr. G. T. Treadwell, Chief Engineer Port of Scattle P. O. Box 1878 Seattle 11, Washington

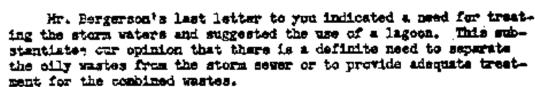
Dear Mr. Readwell:



Your letter of March 22 has been received and has pointed out a need for some clarification of our position in regard to approval of the waste filtration facilities which you proposed to install at the Seattle-Facoma Airport.



It is our opinion that the installation you proposed will accomplish very little under present conditions. My previous latter indicated several factors which are involved in this matter. The principal reasons for raising a question about the adequacy of your proposed plan are first, the oily wastes are mixed with a tremendous quantity of storm water; and second, the sewer is so constructed that during heavy rains little or none of the mixed oil waste-storm water will be processed in the system and the by-passed water will contain nearly all the floating oils.



If a separation of wastes is effected, then your design would have a chance to function as intended. This Commission will not object to the installation you proposed since it will surely add something of value to the waste treatment facilities. However, we do not feel that our approval can be given unless a separation of the waste waters is a part of the plan.

Yery truly yours,

Yenneth R. Jones
Field Sugineer

KRJ/+K

STATE OF WASHINGTON POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

408 OLD CAPITOL BUILDING OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

Mr. G. I. Treatwell, Chief Engineer Port of Seattle 7. 0. Box 1978 Scattle 11, Washington

Cear Mr. TreadMe31:

Since by visit to your office concerning a proposed installation for treating oily wante waters at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, I have visited the airline installations at the airport to obtain additional information regarding the waste materials generally discharged into the sewers.

It was found that the United Mr Mines has nearly completed the installation of an λ . F. I. oil separator which should be fairly successful in removing floating oils. The Pan American Airline and the Morthwest Airlines both have oil sumps. These sumps do not classify as oil separators in that they remove only a small portion of the free oils. In no case does the oil separator have any effect upon emulnified oils which constitute the greatest majority of the wastes.

The three sirlines, then, discharge their oily waste effluents into the main storm sower which drains the east side of the field. During susser months when there is no storm water, the oily wastes are discharged into a lagoon. The diversion structure essentially consists of a low dam in the storm sever which diverte the waters into a smaller nipe leading into the laguen. This method of diversion is apparently satisfactory during dry weather. However, it is so designed that when the volume of storm water increases so that the diversion dam is overflowed, the water containing the Sloating cils is the first to be carried directly into Des Hoines Craek.

The sirline representatives readily admit that there are large volumes of cils, emulsifying chemicals, solvents, and other cleaning chemicals discharged into the storm sewers.

All of those factors indicate that your proposal to install a small sand filter will accomplish very little toward adequately and permanently solving the waste disposal problem. This Commission, therefore, cannot approve your plans for this installation with any confidence that it will seconsafully cope with the waste problem. We will not, on the other hand, prevent the installation of such facilities if you desire to make a trial of them.







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STATE OF WASHINGTON POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION ADS OLD CAPITOL BUILDING OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

February 15, 1954

Mr. G. I. Truedwell, Chief Engineer

Port of Seattle

2. G. Box 1878

Seattle 11, Sasbington

Jean Mr. TreadMell:

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STATE OF WASHINGTON POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION ADS OLD CAPITOL BUILDING OLYMPIA, WASHINGTON

February 15, 1952

Nr. 0. I. Treadwell, Chief Engineer
Fort of Seattle
2. 0. Box 1878
Seattle 11, Sashington

Jear Mr. TreadWell:

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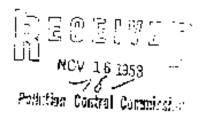
EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

EDUCATION AND LIBRARIES

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STATE OF WASHINGTON

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
1953
OLYMPIA



Movember 12, 1953

Washington Polution Control Commission Clympia, Washington

Centlemen:

There is a problem of polution in the Slat District that warrants corrective action by the Polution Control Commission. There appears to be a clear-cut violation of Section 14 of the Washington Polution Control Law by the Port of Seattle-Tacoma Airport.

The waters of Bow Lake and Des Moines Creek are being openly and deliberately poluted by liquid found to be "toxic to aquatic organisms, fish life, and demestic stock".* Des Moines Creek empties directly into Puget Sound just a few miles below the point of polution and carries these toxic materials cut into the sound. Des Moines Creek water is used to water livestock, to irrigate with, and a local water district has two of its wells in a basin of the creek below the point of polution. Children play in the stream and fish used to swim in it. Our sportsmen are irate over the polution of our fine Sound fishing waters by materials toxic to fish life.

This is not a new problem. Your files will reveal that since June of 1946 the Seattle-Tecome Airport has been draining wastes including plane washings and other caustic materials into Des Moines Creek. Your files will show the receipt of petitions in 1947 by residents of this area requesting action to stop this polution. On June 16, 1948, Dr. Fasten, Chief Biologist, Polution Control Commission, wrote in an official correspondence that "the solution that seemed best was that of firling some means of running the drainage into the contemplated sewage disposal system which is to be built in the near future." "We realize that this will take some time and to prevent further polution of the creek we suggest that a large pit be dug into which the drainage waters can be run and left there to evaporate or stored until such a time as the problem is adequately solved." In May 1949 Col. W. S. Murison in a letter to the Commission stated.... "the condition of the creek has become increasingly worse. At times this creek is nothing more than an open sewer giving forth a foul odor and spreading oil and slime along the banks." On December 9, 1949 the Polution Control Commission in a letter to the Chief Engineer, Port of Seattle, stated as follows: "It now becomes necessary

^{*} Findings of Mashington Folution Control Commission's Chief Biologist, Dr. Nathan Faston, as reported Dapt. Momorandum #596 - 5/25/46.

Engineer, Fort of Sesttle, stated as follows: "It now becomes necessary

* Findings of Mashington Folution Control Commission's Chief Biologist, Dr. Nathan Faston, as reported Dept. Memorandum #596 - 5/25/46.

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Wash. Polution Control Comm.

November 12, 1963

that an order be issued requiring positive steps for keeping sirplene washings out of Des Moines Creek. No real purpose will be served by evading the problem any longer. We are preparing to issue an order requiring complete removal of sirplene washings from the storm sewer and from Des Moines Creek. Plain dilution will not be a satisfactory solution to the problem at any time of the year.

On August 26, 1952 Laucks Testing Laboratories made certain analysis* of the results of this polution to the Des Moines Creek waters and of residue deposited along the banks by the stream. The owner of the property then filed suit for damages, naming the Port of Seattle as defendant. Among the allegations of the claimant in the suit, based on the laboratory report, is the following language: ".....said...waters....have deposited vast quantities of oil, grease, and foreign and harmful substances upon plantiff's soil, impregnating the same so that on 8/19/52 a sample of said soil showed a daposit of oil amounting to 620 galloms per acra."..."That said waters, discharged by defendants aforesaid (Port of Seattle), have left a black crusty material on the tree trunks and brush and over the ground which is of sufficient oil content that the same ignites and burns with a smoky, oily flame." (These same waters emptied several miles below into Puget Sound).

This suit never came to trial because the Port of Seattle immediately purchased the property involved and thus quieted the claim for damages.

Fish do not have attorneys and cannot file suit for damages. In order to protect these fish and those who seek recreation in the waters of this area, (the Des Moines Creek outlet is very near the Saltwater State Park), the Washington Polution Control Commission is empowered and instructed by law to prevent such polution.

On November 11, 1953, I personally examined the area in question. I find this problem still exists and with the addition of a new source of polution.

I found, south of the airport, an earthen settling basin from which a 6-inch pipe runs into two wooden forms whose total dimensions were about 3 feet by 3 feet by 12 feet. The drainage was milky in color and had an oil soum on the surface. This water flowed out of the wooden forms and for about 50 feet across an open slope of field, then into the storm sewer which carried it directly into Des Moines Creek. At the juncture with the creek the drainage was oily to the touch with visible oil on the surface, and was heavily milky in discoloration.

On the east side of the airport there is a small cement tank which overflows across about 75 feet of field into the ditch along Highway 89 from which it is carried directly into the waters of Bow Lake. This liquid was even more white and milky in color, also cily, and the ground over which it ran showed oil residue.

There can be no doubt but that the Commission order of Dec. 9, 1949 is being violated and that the violation is wilful and deliberate. How can we

There can be no doubt but that the Commission order of Dec. 9, 1949 is being violated and that the violation is wilful and deliberate. How can we

* Laboratory #116338

Wash. Polution Control Comm.

November 12, 1953

expect private industry to respect the Polution Commission's orders if public agencies are permitted such flagrant violations? The Port of Seattle first promised to stop this polution in 1946. They were ordered to do so in 1949. The abuse continues in 1963. When does the Polution Control Commission intend to act?

Salt Water fishing is one of our major industries and provides sportsmen with fine and constructive recreation. This great resource must be protected from the rawages of polution. I hope the Commission is more diligent in the exercise of its responsibilities in other polution cases than in this one.

It has been a shameful spectacle for a public agency, such as the Port of Seattle, to show such open disregard for sanitation and to evidence such small respect for the polution control laws of Washington. Sportsmen and conservation-mirded citizens everywhere hope that the Commission will meet its responsibility and protect our streams from polution.

May I hear from you fully regarding whatever action is taken in this case.

Sincerely,

andy dess

AH:EG
oc/State Dept. of Fisheries
State Dept. of Game
State Parks & Rec. Comm.
King Co. Realth Dept.
Seattle Sportsmen's Council
Press

Mr. G. T. Treachell General Manager-Chief Engineer | Flame Wash Waste Port of Seattle P. C. Box 1878 Seattle 11, Washington

Seattle-Tacoga Airport

Attention: S. Chas. Dearstyne, Asst. Chief Angineer

Cour Mr. Treadwell:

In accordance with the rules and regulations of the Pollution Control Commission, the plans for the subject project have been reviewed and are hereby approved.

This approval is given on the basis of your letter of April 21, 1953, outlining the plans for increasing the size of the lagoon area.

Very truly yours,

E. F. Eldridge Director and Chief Engineer

FOR THE COMMISSION

Chairman Chairman

Сониции

e H. Bayage Radm Gordon Rowe Clarence H. Carlander



Managing Director
WARREN D. LAMPORT

General Manager - Chief Engineer
GEORGE T. TREADWELL

100

April 21, 1953

Mr. E. F. Eldridge Director and Chief Engineer Pollution Control Commission 408 Old Capitol Building Olympia, Washington

Seattle-Tacoma Airport - ... Plane Wash Wasts

Dear Mr. Eldridge:

Replying to your letter of March 31, 1953, we are now in the process of doubling the size of the lagoon near the south margin of the airport property.

Port of Seattle has also purchased a parcel of property totaling about six and one-half acres formerly owned by W. S. Murison, located near the end of the discharge pipe and fronting on South 192d Street. This property is low and acts as a further settling basin for any objectionable waste.

You are requested to examine the improvements being provided and, if satisfactory, provide us with your approval for United Air Lines' installation, requested in our letter to you of March 5, 1953.

Yery truly yours,

G. T. Freadwell General Manager-Chief Engineer

S. Chas. Dearstyne
Assistant Chief Engineer

SCD: J cc: L. G. Hall

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M. SAYAGE LOM GORDON ROWE ARENCE M. CARLANDER



Managing Director
WARREN D. LAMPORT

General Manager - Chief Engineer

SECORGE T. TREADWELL

March 5, 1953

State Pollution Control Commission 408 Old Capitol Building Olympia, Hashington

TTLE II. WARHINGTON .

Ra: Seattle-Tacoma Airport U. A. L. Lease Area Flame Wash Waste

Cantlemen:

We are enclosing one print of United Air Lines Dwg. No. 8-1838, Sheet No. 1, indicating a separator pit for separating grease and other impurities from plane wash waste water before emptying into Port of Seattle drainage system or elsewhere on the property.

It is our understanding that you have previously been asked to review this proposel as an installation temporary until such time as a permanent system can be developed, and that such approval has been given.

United Air Lines has now asked Port of Seattle for approval for the installation. Insamuch as our approval will be given only after approval by the Pollution Control Commission, and in order that a complete meeting of the minds be established, you are requested to forward Port of Seattle approval for the installation as outlined above.

Very truly yours,

G. T. Treadvell General Manager-Chief Engineer

S. Chas. Dearstyne

Assistant Chief Engineer

SCD/bb Enc.

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Leo A. Baly Company

ARCHITECTS AND ENGINEERS

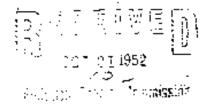
Gmaha, Nebraska

Seattle, Washington

Si. Kanie, Miseauri

WRITTEN FROM

Seattle 30 October 1952



Mr. E. F. Eldridge Director and Chief Engineer Washington State Pollution Control Commission Olympia, Washington

Dear Mr. Aldridge:

The enclosed laboratory report concerning the airplane washwater disposal at Seattle-Tacona International Airport is forwarded for your information. You can see from this report that the original plan that we were investigating, based on certain information furnished by the Turco Products, Inc., is not feasible for solving this problem.

We are presently investigating a solution based on oil separation. As soon as this investigation has reached a more advanced stage, we will contact your office and submit our plans for your consideration.

Wary truly yours,

Frank V. Rolly

FVR:mp

Enclosure

FUNCTIONAL ANALYSIS + ARCHITECTURAL, SESIGN + SITE PLANNING + CIVILISTRUCTURAL, MECHANICAL, ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS + PROJECT SUPERVISORS

WILLIAM S. MERISON BOX 276 DES MOINES, WASH.

September 27, 1951.

SUBJECT: Pollution of Des Moines Creek.

TC:

State Follution Commission, A03 Cld Capitol Building, Clympia, Mash.



- 1. Usuald condimm telephone conversation with your office today advising that the pollution of Des Noines Greek, caused by the dumping of airplane wachings and oil from the Sentale-Income Airport continues unabated.
- 2. This condition was Direct reported to you Movember 17th. 1947, after repeated protects to the Chief Engineer, Fort of Jestale had brought about no remedial action.
- 3. We intropout are fully aware of these conditions and it has been whrough your actions alone that any attempt . has been made to reptify this most unsanitary condition.
- 4. This condition has existed now for over four years, with the result that a large area of our property has become impregnated with oil and soum due to the overflow from the "settling pit" finding its way into the airport storm sever. The volume of water coming from this storm sever in rainy weather floods a large area of land and on this water receding leaves a deposit of oil and soum.
 - 5. The finding of your Commission is that these washings are toxic, although the Thief Engineer of the Port of Seattle seemingly is not in agreement with this.
 - 6. The Bes Moines Creek, as it passes through our property is foul, edorous and very frequently has the appearance of an open sever.
 - 7. We have made every effort to have the Port of Seattle remedy this objectionable condition in an amicable manner, but these efforts have been fruitless, we having received nothing but promises. We now feel the time has come for some definite action to be taken, and respectfully request the existing conditions on Des Moines Greek be again investigated by your Commission and action taken to compel the Fort of Semattle to clean up this foul mess.

Des Moines Creek be again investigated by your Commiscion and action taken to compel the Fort of Semutle to clean up this foul mess.

cc Port of Destile Northwest Wirlines. Respectfully

January 29, 1951

Mr. Don Catalder Construction Engineer Northwest Air Lines Scattle-Tacoma Airport Seattle #8, stabington

Coar Sir:

During the full of 1950, the Pollution Control Commission received poweral complaints regarding the dusping of oily wash batters from the Seattle-Racoma Airport into a tributary of Jea Moines Creek. These washings, which are produced by the Northwest Tirlines equations, are normally collected, during day weather, in a storage pend. Discharges of oil to the stream took place during day weather, and were observed by engineers of the Commission staff.

Officials of the Airport have stated that at least a part of the trouble was caused by accidental spilling of heavy oil in the Morthwest Airlines hander, and failure of the Airlines to keep the oil sump cleaned.

The Commission has agreed to give the present pending system another trial during the octing sugger, when it is hoped that closer supervision will be given to the facilities. A repatition of the conditions which were obtained last year will require that new means for discovel of the washings must be found.

Your cooperation is requested in the reduction of examine of what oil reaching the mewers, and in frequent inspection and eleuning of the oil sump.

Very truly yours.

James S. Wark Associate Engineer

Julean

JW:sc .

ce: Mr. William Baptie

December 9, 1949

Hr. G. T. Trandwell, Chief Togineer Port of Seattle P. G. Box 1873 Seattle 11, Washington

ENEJECT: Airplano Washings - Seattle-Tacora Mirport

Dear Sir:

It is now over two years since first complaints on dumping of airplane washings in Des Moines Greak were first received in this office. Complaints have been received periodically ever since and there is very great dissatisfaction with the present method of waste disposal on the part of residents living on Des Moines Greek.

It now becomes necessary that in order be issued requiring positive steps for keeping airplane whehings out of Des Moines Creek. No real purpose will be served by evading the problem any longer. Action by the Follution Control Commission will undoubtedly be better for everyone concerned than legal action or court injunction by residents on the creek.

We are preparing to issue an order requiring complete removal of airplane washings from the storm sever and from Des Moines Creek. We are convinced that anything less than that will always be subject to accidents and much controversy. Plain dilution will not be a satisfactory solution to the problem at any season of the year.

If you have any valid reason why such order should not be issued and made effective within approximately sixty days, you are invited to sivise this office within fifteen (15) days and present an alternate proposal.

Very truly yours,

Wallage V. Bergerson
Assistant Director & Associate Engineer

MB/mb CC Morthwest Airlines CC Norman Commish WWB/mb CC Morthwest Airlines CC Morsan Comish 7.13

CITY OF SEATTLE AND KING COUNTY

Department of Public Health

EMIL E. PALMQUIST, M.D., M.P.H.
DIRECTOR OF FORLIG HEALTH

FEATTLE 4. WARRINGTON

November 12, 1949

DECEIMED

State Pollution Commission

State of Washington Pollution Centrol Commission Legislative Euilding Olympia, Washington

Attenvion: Wallace W. Bergeson, Associate Engineer

Gentlemen:

I should like to refer a problem to your Department for action which I believe you have the authority to handle.

Mr. Albert Toung advises me that this is an old story to you and that it will probably not be necessary to go further into detail than to state that it involves the waste wash water from the Northwest Airlines hangar at Bow Lake Airport. At the present time this outfall is discharging into a creek directly south of South 188th and 22nd South.

We have had several complaints regarding this matter, the most recent of which has been from a Mr. Cornish of 19432 - 22md South. Any corrective measures you may be able to instigate in this problem will be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours,

DIVISION OF SANITATION

J. E. Van Amburgh, Caler

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Technical Division

POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

Bagley Hall Annex - University of Washington

Seattle 5, Washington

Mon C. Wallgren Governor June 25, 1948

Jack Taylor Director

MEMORANDUM NUMBER 596

CONFERENCE RECAPDING DRAINAGE AT STATTLE-TACOLD

AIRPORT AT BOY LAKE

By Nathan Fasten

TIME: June 15, 1948, 10:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

<u>PLACE</u>: Office of Mr. George Treadwell, Fort of Seattle Engineer, 405 Bell Street Terminal, Seattle, Mashington.

PRESENT: From Port Commission:

Commissioner E. H. Savage Corrissioner W. D. Lamport

Chief Engineer George T. Treadwell

Prom Pollution Control Commission: Assistant Director Joe Lobberegt Chief Biologist Dr. Nathan Fasten

This conference was for the purpose of determining what seems best to do with the drainage waters and wastes from the hangars at the Row Lake Airport. These wastes have been draining into Des Moines Creek and inasmuch as a good share of them consist of the washings of the planes with caustic materials, the waters of Des Moines Creek become polluted with substances that are toxic to aquatic organisms, fish life, and domestic stock.

Mr. Treadwell, Port Engineer, stated that the Fort Commission desired to solve this problem as soon as possible so as to prevent and eliminate further pollution of Des Moines Creek. All realized that the problem is not a simple one and a number of difficulties will have to be overcome before it is finally solved.

The solution that seemed best from the standpoint of expense was to find a means of running the drainage into the contemplated sewage disposal system which is to be built on the grounds in the near future. The members of the Pollution Control Commission present at the conference urged Mr. Treadwell to further explore this method of solving the problem. Furthermore, since this study will take some time, it was suggested to Mr. Treadwell that he dig a large pit in the vicinity of the hangars where the planes are washed, so as to run the drainage waters into it, in order that they may evaporate or be stored until such a time as the problem is solved. Everyone agreed that it was most undesirable to run the drainage into Des Moines Creek and pollute it to the extent where aquatic organisms, fish life, and domestic forms are injured.

 outline the entire project as discussed at the conference and

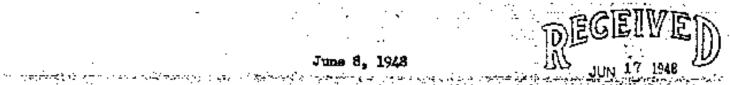
eubmit it to our samitary engineering division in Olympia for the comment and appraisal.

The members of the Pollution Control Commission present promised to send a letter to Mr. Howard Tuttle, attorney for the Northwest Airlines, telling him of the conference and the decisions reached with regard to this pollution problem. On June 16, 1948, the following letter was sent to him. Copies of this letter also were sent to Director Jack Taylor at Olympia, Mr. George T. Treadwell of the Port of Seattle Commission, and Mr. Frank Judd, Vice-President of the Northwest Airlines, at Sow Lake.

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LAUCKS LABORATORIES INC. Scattle, Wash.

June 8, 1948



State Pollution Commission

PRELEMINARY REPORT ON CONTAMINATION PROBLEM AT

BOW LAKE AIRPORT

The problem briefly is this: airplanes are washed on a large apron at the Northwest Airlines Depot at Bow Lake. The washing operation consists of spraying the airplane first with a solution that is termed oleum, which is merely a refined kerosene. Second, the airplans is sprayed with a compound named amulsin. This is a rather complex mixture consisting of as follows:

Fotash Soap
Pine 011 275
Chlorineted Solvent 18%
Triethenolamine 2%

This substance causes the kerosene, which has softened up the dirt, to emulsify and can be easily removed by rinsing when the simplene is hosed cff.

The problem at Bow Lake is caused by the presence of these cleaning agents; the drainage from the wash operation goes into the storm sewer and subsequently into a small creek where the karosene and other grease separates out leaving an oily film which is toxic. The solution of the problem has three possible paths that may be followed:

First, the rinse from the washing operation can be put through the sewage system. There are a number of objections to this; one of them is that the sewage system may handle the drainage from one airline depot but probably will not handle the drainage from all the depote that will be eventually placed at Bow Lake. Also, the cleaners would tend to consume chlorine and upset the chlorinating operation in the sewage disposal plant. The third thing against such a plan is that the washing operation is intermittent, and therefore the flow through the sewage disposal plant would be quite variable and might result in faulty purification.

The second method that might be used to solve this problem is
to build a pane and pump all the drainage water up into it and allow
it to seep out. This, of course, would be difficult during the wet
season and would most certainly result in an area that is heavily contesimated with the accumulation of waste matter that results from the
washing of these planes.

The third possibility is to cause the water and the cily residue to separate by chemical means, and then pass the separated mixture through a contrifuge. The separated oil could be either burned or recovered, whichever proved the most economical.

We are at present investigating the possible centrifuges that can be applied to such an operation, and will report to you later on the relative costs of the above operating methods, as well as to give you specific information on the type of equipment and where it may be ordered.

Respectfully submitted, LAUCES LABORATORIES, INC.

By (Signed) J.M. Kniseley

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POST OFFICE BOX 1619 SEATTLE 11, WASH.

May 26, 1948

Mr. Max Campbell, c/o H. D. Fowler & Co. 558 - 1st South, Seattle, Washington.

Dear Mr. Campbell:

As you know the Engineering Dept. of the Fort of Seattle has just completed the design of a two-stage trickling filter sewage treatment plant and it is intended that bids will be called for construction of this plant within the next two weeks.

The question arises as to whether or not certain waste matters from the washing of airplanes can be handled in the sewage treatment plant. Laucks Laboratories Inc. have been retained by the Port of Seattle to furnish us information pertaining to the detergent used in the cleaning of airplanes. In their report they state,

*Exclisine, a detergent manufactured by the Turco Company is used to wash the outer surface of the airplanes after each trip. This product is an amulsifying agent used in the solution of one part Emulsime and nine parts kerosene. It is sprayed on the surface of the plane with a power sprayer, allowed to remain several minutes then washed off with a bose.

The solution is a powerful emulsifying agent dissolved in a chlorinated solvent which gives it splendid grease cutting properties. One part of Emulsiae will cause nine parts of kerosine to become miscible with water.

At the present time the drainage from the apron is discharged into the storm sever and we have been notified by the Washington State

H. D. Fowler & Co.

Page 2

Folution Commission that this discharge is causing contamination in the stream and is killing the fish. In addition to the lauchs' above statement they have informed us the Bunkine splits easily when made slightly acid. One suggestion they have made is to meter acid into the rinse water and pass the material through a centrifuge, thereby separating the detergent from the rinse water. This could be accomplished by means of an existing sump pit. The detergent then can be either reclaimed or burned whichever proved the most economic.

Inesmuch as there will be some half a dozen hangers constructed upon Seattle-Taccam Airport we believe the proper method of handling this waste material would be through the sawage treatment plant, however, we do not want to put the waste material through the treatment plant if the plant will not handle it in a proper manner.

We would appreciate it if you would contact the lakeside Engineering Co. by sirmail and determine whether or not this waste material can be handled in the sewage treatment plant. At the same time we would appreciate it if you could formish any information how the problem of handling waste material is accomplished at other airports where they have constructed a sewage treatment plant exclusively for use by the airport.

Very truly yours,

G. T. Treadwell Chief Engineer

GTT/mb

· cc: Lakeside Engr. Co.

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Technical Division

POLLUTION CONTROL COMMISSION

203 Eagley Hall - University of Washington

Seattle 5, Washington

Mon C. Wellgren Governor April 16, 1948

Jack Taylor Director

MEMORANDUM NUMBER 550

REGARDING POLLUTION OF DES MOINES CREEK, BOW LAKE

ATRPORT, TACCMA HIGH/AY

By Nath≥n Fasten I.

Talked to Mr. Treadwell, Engineer of the Port of Seattle, on Thursday, April 15, 1948, in regard to the contamination of Bes Moines Creek Bow Lake Airport relative to the use of caustics.

Wr. Treadwell stated that the Port Commissioners have notified the Northwest Airlines some time ago to stop using these caustic materials, since they pollute the waters of Des Moines Creek.

He was of the opinion that since the air authorities were requested to refrain from using the pollutants, they have not contaminated Des Moines Creek.

I asked Mr. Treadwell whether he was certain of this and he stated that he was not, but nonetheless the request was made some time ago. He believed that that is all they can do at pressent and the rest is up to the State Pollution Control Commission. Treadwell was asked to incorporate this information in a letter to Director Jack Taylor and he promised to do that. He also said he would send a copy of the communication to Morthwest Airlines.

Re Pollution of Des Moines Creek, Bow Lake Airport

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II.

Meanwhile the matter also was discussed with the attorneys for the Northwest Airlines. Under date of April 14, 1948, the following letter was received.

Dear Dr. Pasten:

Thank you very much for your letter of April 13 enclosing copy of petition submitted to your Commission under date of November 17, 1947, complaining of pollution in Des Moines Greek as a result of drainage at the Seattle-Tacoma Airport at Bow Lake, and copies of recent correspondence concerning the same.

As I advised you over the telephone, this matter has been referred to us as attorneys for the Northwest Airlines by Mr. Frank Judd. An extensive examination of their procedures for cleaning arroraft has been undertaken and the entire matter submitted to the Engineering Department of the Northwest Airlines at Saint Faci. At the same time, Yr. Judd has taken the matter up with the other sirlines who have effected leases for the uses of facilities at the airport, including United Airlines and Pan-American Airways. These concerns, together with ourselves, are now in the process of making representations to the Port of Seattle, wrich is the owner of the Seattle-Tacoma Airport, to require them to establish drainage facilities to some point other than Des Moines Creek. Pursuant to the terms of the lease entered into between Mortawest Airlines and the Port of Seattle on August 6, 1946, the Port of Seattle has agreed to furnish all required public utilities, including sewers, for which the sirknes are to use the Bow Lake Airport facilities. It will require engineering work and a new arrangement for sewage disposal which may take a period of time in order to correct this situation, but we feel that at an early date the Fort of Seattle will recognize its obligation both to us and to the State and thereupon undetake corrective procedures. We will keep you advised of our progress in this connection, confidently expecting that corrective procedures will be undertaken in the very near future.

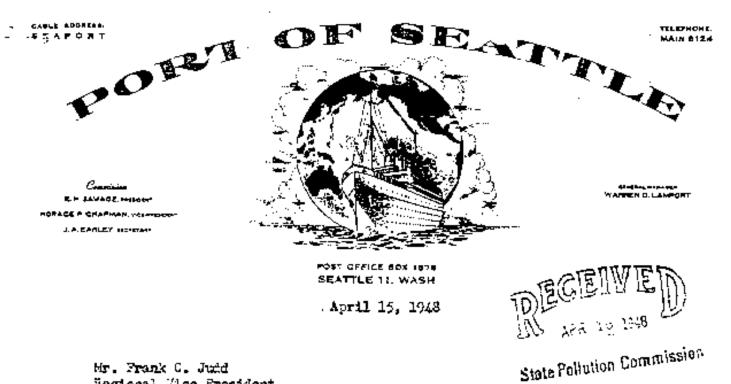
I will again advise you within ten days of the procedures con-

Yours very truly, KARR, KARR, & TUTTLE By /s/ Howard Tuttle

Yours very truly, KARR, KARR, & TUTTLE By /s/ Howard Tuttle الرازي والأراز والرسعة والسار

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Section System (1997)



Mr. Frank C. Judd Regional Vice President Northwest Airlines, Inc. Scattle-Tacoma Airport Scattle 68, Washington

Dear Fr. Judd:

On February 5, 1943, we sent you a letter pertaining to the colletion that is taking place in Des Moines Creek as a result of Morthwest Airlines using certain types of chemicals to clean aircraft, which are toxic to marine life. In our letter, we suggested that this matter be referred to your Research Engineers to see if they would be able to develop, or recommend, a detergent that would adequately cleanse the airplanes but would not have such properties as to cause pollution to Des Moines Creek.

We have been advised by Mr. Mathan Fasten, of the Follution Control Commission, that the practice of using the detergent is still continuing and pollution is taking place in Ees Moines Creek in the vicinity of the drainage cutfall; and that, further, a petition of the property owners in that section has been filed with the Pollution Control Commission, protesting the pollution of the waters of Ees Moines Creek.

In our letter of February 5, we pointed out that it is a violation of the pollution control laws of the State of Washington to allow any material to be discharged directly or indirectly into any stream that will tend to cause pollution. In addition, we pointed out that in the opinion of the Fort authorities, the discharge of any material into this drainage system that will tend to cause pollution is a violation of the lease between the Poft of Scattle and Morthwest Airlines, incomuch as the lease provides that Northwest Airlines will comply with all ordinances of King County and all laws of the State of Washington.

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THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

DOM W. CLARKE, DIRECTOR
BIB SMITH TOWER
SEATTLE 4

January 27, 1948

Ener W. Badcon, President. Angle Lake Community Club 1201 S. 208th Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Badcon;

Feference is made to a resolution of the Angle Lake Community Club dated January 8, 1948, copy of which we received.

This is to advise the members of the Angle Lake Community Club that the State Game Department is quite interested in stocking all waters wherein it may be shown that fish life can be produced and that the public may benefit from the fishing provided. We will gladly replant fish in the small stream which originates in Bow Lake after we have received some type of written assurance from the officials of the Bow Lake sirport and the State Pollution Control Commission that a permanent correction has been made of the pollution problem.

We do not feel justified in making plants of valuable fish if they are to be periodically subjected to the lethal effluence from the airport.

We wish to sincerely thank your organization for the interest they have taken in recreational projects in that district, not only from the standpoint of large take but also in respect to other areas within that district.

Very truly yours,

THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

By Dom W. Clarke, Director

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do - Pollution Control Condission

E. A. Chitwood

E. A. Chitwood

COPY



THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

DOM W. CLARKE, DIRECTOR
BIB SMITH TOWER
SEATTLE 4

January 27, 1948

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Very truly yours,

THE DEPARTMENT OF GAME

By Dom W. Clarke, Director

RCMIO

do - Pollution Control Condission

E. A. Chitwood

E. A. Chitwood

COPY

Technical Division

POLICITION CONTROL COMMISSION

203 Bagley Hall - University of Washington

Seattle 5, Mashington

Non C. Nallgren Governor Movember 12, 1947

Jack Taylor Director

<u> 127 MEANIANA DINIBER 490</u>

POPINGTON OF THE NOINGS ORDER NITE OFFICE BOLDSTONS FROM BOY WAR WIRPORD, BRANTER, THOSAN RIGHTAY

TO: Dataen Fasten, whief Biologist

From: Joe Lobberegt and Frank Yates, Investigator

A complaint received from Er. Bob Meigs, of the State Game Department, regarding pollution caused by the drainage waters from the Morthwest Airlines field at Bow Dake was investigated by Joe Lobberegt and Frank Yates on November 4, 1947.

A thorough inspection of the territory revealed that all of the drainage water from the Bow Lake Airport found its way into a ditch that emptied into Ses Poines Creek.

IT. T. Tinker, a resident of the vicinity, claimed that occasionally the Northwest Airlines wash their planes with a neavy chemical solution, probably caustic in nature, and this eventually finds its way into Des Moines Creek. Moreover, Mr. Tinker stated that he had noticed several dead fish in this stream.

"A call was made at the office of the vice-president of the airline, Mr. Frank Judd, who is in charge of this field but he

airline, Mr. Frank Judd, who is in charge of this field but he

Pollution of Des Moines Greek With Chemical Solutions

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was out of town and could not be contacted. Since he is expected back within a few days, another trip will be made to the airport for the purpose of discussing this matter with him.

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LAUCKS LABORATORIES INC. Seattle, Wash.

Odtober 6, 1947

Report No. 100328

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Port of Seattle Bell Street Dock Seattle, Machington

Attn: George Treadwell

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Gentlemen:

On September 30, 1947, we made an inspection of the Bowlake Airport in connection with a sewage disposal problem. The problem briefly is this.

Exulsime, a detergent manufactured by the Turco Company is used to wash the outer surface of the simplanes after each trip. This product is an emulsifying agent used in a solution of one part Exulsime and nine parts kerosens. It is sprayed on the surface of the plane with a power sprayer, allowed to remain several minutes then washed off with a hose.

The solution is a powerful amulaifying agent dissolved in a chlorinated solvent which gives it splendid grease cutting properties. One part of Emulaime will cause nine parts of kerosene to become miscible with water.

When this mixture is rinsed off the surface of the plane it falls down on the concrete apron of the hanger and from there is rinsed into the storm sewers which drain into a small sewer main that travels undermeath the ground in a South-Westerly direction until it connects with a small stream which is the outlet for Bowlake. During the dry season this stream is very small, and while the encunt of Emulsime and kerosene used isn't very great there is sufficient to cause a notable amount of contamination in this stream.

We feel that there will be no damage to live stock from the presence of this material because it is of nozious character and the animals won't touch it. However, it probably will kill the larve of mosquitoes or any other inhabitant of the water in the stream.

During other periods of the year there will not be any serious problems in connection with this small amount of waste material.

During the dry part of the year the problem can be taken care of by supplying a small amount of water to carry away the waste.

Very truly yours,

LAUCKS LABORATORIES, INC. (Signed) J. M. Linseley

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JMK:mac

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