

October 8, 2020

Roger G. Quan  
Director, Air Quality and Climate Change  
Metro Vancouver  
Metrotower III, 4730 Kingsway  
Burnaby, BC V5H 0C6

FILE: 13-6410-06/20

Dear Mr. Quan:

RE: Inclusion of rail traffic emissions in annual air quality monitoring

Thank you very much for forwarding the annual *Caring for the Air 2020*, outlining different aspects of Metro Vancouver's regional air quality and climate change monitoring and management. Our City Council recently reviewed the report and found *Caring for the Air 2020* to be very helpful for understanding the Region's air quality trends and several of its climate change actions.

One of the articles in the report highlighted the *Metro Vancouver Near-Road Air Quality Monitoring Study*, including the finding that the presence of large diesel-fueled trucks has a larger impact on the amount and type of air pollution near busy roadways than just general traffic volume. This raises questions about the air quality impacts of rail lines and railway yards. A review of Metro Vancouver's air quality monitoring reports suggests rail traffic is not currently subject to similar targeted monitoring, yet the draft policies for *Climate 2050* include relevant emission reduction goals.

Pitt Meadows is host to the CP Vancouver Intermodal Facility, which is undergoing expansion and will include the addition of a third rail line through the centre of the City to accommodate significant rail traffic growth. Our community is, therefore, very concerned about the air quality and health implications associated with significant expansion of regional heavy-rail service.

*Caring for the Air 2020* illustrates the success of Metro Vancouver and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority's air quality monitoring and efforts to reduce air contaminants and emissions from marine and heavy-duty diesel vehicles. As one of several communities in the region with railway lines running close to, or through, residential and urban areas, the City of Pitt Meadows requests Metro Vancouver and its partner agencies similarly tackle air quality monitoring and diesel emission-reduction strategies for the growing regional rail traffic.

Sincerely,  


Mark Roberts

Chief Administrative Officer, City of Pitt Meadows

cc: City of Pitt Meadows Council;  
Jerry W. Dobrovolsky, Commissioner/Chief Administrative Officer, Metro Vancouver